

Bavarian News

Vol 3. Nr. 15

U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Bamberg, and Schweinfurt

July 25, 2007

Governor hosts social for troops

by **ADRIANE FOSS**
Editor

U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr and German Soldiers mingled Friday evening at the garrison physical fitness center during a Soldier's Reception hosted by Bavarian Minister President Dr. Edmund Stoiber.

Last week marked the first time that the reception was held on the U.S. military installation.

Stoiber, the equivalent of a U.S. governor, addressed the audience during the event, calling

it an honor to host the event on post and said he looks forward to the continuing support and good relationship between the Bavarian population and the state government and U.S. Armed Forces.

"I consciously chose the military training area of Grafenwoehr, this 'bit of America in Bavaria,' for the Solider's Reception this year in order to once again express openly and clearly to everyone my close affinity for our American friends," said Stoiber. He discussed Germany's "new beginning" after the devastation of World

War II, and said, "I am certain this new beginning would not have been possible if the United States of America had not been the first to extend a hand directly after the collapse of the Nazi regime and helped lift us out of our spiritual, emotional, and material plight.

"Then, America was always there when the totalitarian threat from the East became life-threatening as the Iron Curtain divided our country. For many decades, the USA guaranteed our security," he said.

See **STOIBER** Page 29

Community mourns death of local youth

Staff report

Family, friends, and community members gathered at the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Chapel July 19 for the (funeral) Mass of 17-year-old David Paul Ferrer.

Ferrer, who graduated Vilseck High School in June, died Sunday on the Grafenwoehr military installation. He was pronounced dead by a German physician at 7:25 a.m. at the scene Sunday. He is survived by his parents, Veronica and Derick Ferrer, and a sister and a brother. German and U.S. military police officials are investigating the death.

Chaplain (Capt.) Peter Uhde presided over the solemn Mass, beginning with a prayer, followed by a Scripture reading (Lamentations

See **FERRER** Page 29

Don't miss the 50th Annual German-American Volksfest at Grafenwoehr Aug. 3-5 !!!



Photo by Shannon Hill

The 50th annual German American Volksfest will be held at Grafenwoehr's Camp Kasserine Aug. 3-5. Come out and enjoy *live music, carnival rides, jumping castle, clowns, face painting, games*, and more. There will be military vehicle displays, food and drinks, and live entertainment Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to midnight, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. SEE PAGE 8 FOR A LIST OF VOLKSFEST ACTIVITIES.

Vilseck mayor gifts city sign to Soldiers

Story and photo by **BILYANA ATOVA**
Staff writer

Vilseck Mayor Hans-Martin Schertl presented the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment leadership with a city sign that the Soldiers can take with them when they deploy to Iraq next month.

The July 12 presentation took place at the Vilseck Town Hall, where Schertl explained that the sign will be a reminder to the troops of their home in Vilseck.

He asked them to post the sign at their base in Iraq, and said each time Soldiers return to their Iraqi base after conducting operations, it will be like returning "home."

"Get back home safe to the city of Vilseck,

and get back well to your Families," said Schertl.

The mayor also assured the 2SCR leadership that the Families the unit will leave behind when they deploy will be well taken care of by the community.

"We have many opportunities in Vilseck for the Families," said Schertl. "The Families are welcome to come to all the fests and events that we organize."

The unit, which relocated from Fort Lewis, Wash., to Vilseck last summer, was represented by 2SCR Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Bryan Denny, 4th Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Antonio Aguto, 2SCR spokesman Maj. Jon Pendell, and 2SCR Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Martinez.



Vilseck Mayor Hans-Martin Schertl farewells 2SCR with a city sign.

by **BILYANA ATOVA**
Staff writer

"The regiment is ready to go. We are well trained and equipped to succeed in Iraq."

Those were the words of 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment spokesman Maj. Jon Pendell July 11 at the Grafenwoehr railhead, where the unit conducted equipment rail-load operations in preparation for their deployment next month.

2SCR, which arrived in Vilseck July 2006 from Fort Lewis, Wash., is set to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in August.

"This rail loading operation is our first phase of safely and efficiently deploying all equipment and personnel in support of OIF," said Pendell.

He explained that the unit is loading approximately 40 Strykers per day and will ship approximately 300 overall. In addition, they will rail everything from trailers and Humvees to

See **2SCR** Page 29

DEPLOYMENT 101

Find out how to help your children face deployment

by **BILYANA ATOVA**
Staff writer

Among the many circumstances that make a military childhood unique are deployments.

The separation of parent and child can take its toll on children of all ages, and experts agree that parents should take steps to help children cope during this difficult time.

"Many times we forget the kids, that they go through the same emotions, fears, and concerns as we do," said Simone Hartley of the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program.

Robin Kelley, ACS's Family Advocacy program manager, said parents and caregivers should "start preparing the child as soon as you

know about the coming deployment."

She said that preparation should begin with a discussion involving the whole family, followed by the parents spending individual talk time with each child.

"Children often pick up on subtle emotional changes in their parents, and if they become aware that their mother or father is behaving differently, they may personalize it and

believe they are the cause," added Navy Capt. Daphne Brown, a clinical psychologist at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. "They need to understand, in concrete terms they can grasp, what is happening and why."

But this crucial communication should not be a one-time event, said Kelley.

See **BEDWETTING** Page 29

Tips for Kids

❑ Share appropriate information with your child in a way s/he will understand. For instance, use a map or globe to show where the parent is going.

❑ Emphasize the special training the parent has had. (continued on Page 8)

Q&A

What are your *travel plans* for this *summer*?



Karen Lazzeri
"I'm going to London next week."
Bamberg Community Librarian

Capt. Kathy Charles
"I'm going to Guadeloupe, an island in the Caribbean near Trinidad and Tobago."

391st CSS Bn.



Betty Pope
"I've been coming to my summer home in Rattlesdorf for the last eight years, ... the rest of the year in Indiana."

Bamberg Chapel Organist

Dusti Mitchell
"I have a trip planned later this month to go to the Canary Islands."

Army spouse



Kimberly Millner
"I'm going to Disney World in Florida."

Bamberg ACS, volunteer coordinator

Spc. Ray Holmesbrown
"I've been to Neuschwanstein, Munich, and Wuerzburg. My goal was to see ... castles..."

240th Quartermaster Co.



Staff Sgt. Tyrone King
"I'm going to Paris, then Mississippi in August to spoil my mom and go fishing."

Warner Barracks Housing Zone coordinator

Tom Eichler
"We've been taking MWR trips. We went to Nuremberg Zoo and ... we're taking the castle tour."

Bamberg resident, retired Navy



Lack of sorting, concern result in overflowing trash, eyesore

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words. The two pictures in my column this week will do most of the talking.

Most of you may notice that this article does not contain the usual three topics that I normally focus on.

This week, I will discuss one topic, and that topic is TRASH.

Refer to the two pictures included in this column and see if you can figure out the location of the pictures. At the end of the column I'll reveal the answer.

I recently visited the Vilseck community and saw several built to lease areas, Fitzhumb Village, and private rentals in and around the swimming area.

It really is a nice area with sports facilities nearby, a basketball court, baseball fields, and playground.

Unfortunately it is marred by trash—trash that overwhelms the bins.

Much of the trash is not sorted for recycling, and many items are not even eligible for pick up by local sanitation teams.

In and around the bins I saw kitchen chairs, a box of motor parts, bicycles, TVs, and stereo components. Inside the trashcans were bags of unsorted trash with plastic bottles, cardboard, and the cardboard bins even had unsorted trash bags in it.

Ladies and gentlemen, there was so much trash around the garbage bins that the trash collectors couldn't drive their trucks close enough to the bins to retrieve the trash.

So what is causing the problem?

■ **People don't sort.** In this particular area, we have the largest number of trash bins in the community. We also have a large number of recyclable bins, but they are almost empty. People think nothing of throwing unsorted trash in the bins and filling them up. **I am convinced it is not TOO MUCH trash. It is 'stuff' that, if sorted, would fit in recycling containers near the bins and the other—the**



Figure 1



Figure 2

real trash—would fit in the bins.

■ **Drive-bys occur.** In this area there are several housing complexes, and people take advantage of these large bins and throw their (unsorted) trash in them.

How do we fix the problem?

■ **Sort your trash.** Use the recyclable bins around the trash cans.

■ **Figure out what is recyclable and where to place the items.** Go to the Self Help Store and get the data on the recycling center that serves your area and use it. Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, and other communities all have signs that recycle and allow items to be brought in. Follow the guidance and use these facilities.

■ **Use your own bins.** If your bins are full, re-sort your items and take recyclable items to the local recyclable areas. If those recyclable centers will not take some items (and items like electronic parts are usually not accepted) or you have too much, you can take it to the two recyclable centers (one on Vilseck near the CIF and one on Grafenwoehr along the Tank Trail near the incinerator), and we will help you sort your recyclable items.

The way ahead

In one of the column photos, the garrison will spend additional resources once again to pick up items. This is probably the fourth or fifth time we have done that since I have been here.

Community members, we just do not have unlimited funds. I am asking you to follow the measures in the how to fix column to help get this situation under control. **Do not take your real trash on post. You don't need to. If you sort correctly, you will have enough bins to handle your items. Bringing your trash on post takes away resources from on-post residents.**

Now the answers to the photos. Figure 1 is in the housing areas in Vilseck. Believe it or not, Figure 2 is the car wash at Grafenwoehr. You can see for yourself that we have an urgent problem on our installations.

As I have often stated, I need you to help me keep this place clean. I regularly move around and pick up items in my travels.

If everyone picked up one, two, or even three pieces of trash, we would have more than 10,000 fewer pieces of trash clustering our community a day!

All is not doom and gloom, and we certainly don't live in ghetto-like areas. But I ask you once again to help me make this the best place to live and serve in Germany by sorting your trash and keeping our area neat and clean.

*Col. Brian T. Boyle
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

Local Family thanks community for love, show of support after losing everything in Weiden house fire

On Saturday, June 2, at 5 p.m., our family hosted a farewell for a family who was leaving the Weiden community to return to the U.S. Little did we know, it would be our farewell to Weiden as well.

Shortly after my husband presented the family with a plaque and gift and cut their cake, fire swept up from our basement.

Fortunately, everyone evacuated safely, including our Shih Tzu puppy Buddy, who was rescued from the smoke and flames by the German fire department. The Feuerwehr treated Buddy on the spot for smoke inhalation.

We lost everything in the fire—furniture, clothing, and a lifetime of possessions. Some of our items that were on the second floor are being treated to remove the soot in hopes of salvaging some of it.

Support from the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr community was overwhelming, and we would like to thank all of you for your assistance, gifts, and encouragement.

We'd like to give special thanks to:

■ Mr. Schunk, the acting chief of Housing, for coming out the night of the fire, promptly arranging hotel rooms for the six of us, and quickly finding us housing (on a Sunday). He was there every step of the way;

■ the Red Cross and ACS for helping us get back on our feet;

■ the Vilseck Post Exchange for working with the Red Cross;

■ the 41st Transportation Company for their contributions;

■ the teachers and staff of Grafenwoehr middle and elementary schools for their gifts and monetary donations;

■ Mr. Dinges, Mrs. Wilner, and the fourth grade for taking up a collection for our daughter Nia Cohen;

■ Mrs. Terri Follett-Motton for purchasing beds for my children (awesome);

■ Bavaria District School Superintendent Mike Thompson, District Transportation Supervisor Richard Kirkland, and Grafenwoehr School Bus Office's Jimmy Avery for their constant support;

■ Liza and Isabella Lenzini for adopting Buddy;

■ our Weiden family who gave us

provisions to get through our first post-fire days and helped with the clean up;

■ and last but not least, the many people (you know who you are) who gave anonymously.

God is good all the time. "(He threw) open the floodgates of heaven and pour(ed) out so much blessing that (we do) not have room enough for it." (Mal. 3:10).

Our children have more toys, books, and clothes than they did before the fire.

We are assured that "(God) will bless those who bless(ed) us..." (Gen. 12:3). We appreciate everything the community has done for us.

Thank you!

Shelly & Calvin Cohen & Family



**Cartoon by Ingrid Langhammer-Kenan
Grade 4, Age 10**

Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Bamberg, and Schweinfurt

Producer: **MILCOM Advertising Agency**
Roswitha Lehner

Zeilaeckerstr. 35 · 92637 Weiden · Telefax 0961-67050-32

Internet: **www.milcom.de**

Bavarian News is an unofficial biweekly publication authorized by AR 360-1. Editorial views are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. The paper is an offset publication prepared and edited by the U.S. Army Garrison-Grafenwoehr Public Affairs Office. Bavarian News is printed by Werbeagentur und Verlag Roswitha Lehner and distributed every other Wednesday. Circulation is 11,900 copies. Submissions are welcome. Send letters to the editor and commentaries to PAO, Unit 28130, Attn: Bavarian News, APO AE 09114, or e-mail them to usagnews@graf.eur.army.mil. Telephone the Bavarian News at 475-7113 or fax to 475-7935 with story ideas and events.

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ISLAM: Respect the faith, not the fanatics

by Staff Sgt. RUSSELL BASSETT
Special to Army News Service

Religion is never a very easy topic to talk about. It tends to divide more than it unites.

Religion gets to the heart of what we believe and what we value, and strong emotions are wrapped around those beliefs and values. Even atheists strongly defend their right not to believe in God.

Down through history, religion has been used to justify great injustices, including war and genocide.

Today, one religion — Islam — is facing close scrutiny as its radical fringe terrorizes the world through violent attacks.

The White House has gone to great pains to ensure the War on Terrorism is not seen as a clash of religions. President George Bush made a point of praising Islam as “a religion of peace.” He invited Muslim clerics to the White House for Ramadan dinners and criticized evangelicals who call Islam a dangerous faith.

One such evangelist, Franklin Graham, son of Billy Graham wrote, “Islam – unlike Christianity – has among its basic teachings a deep intolerance of those who follow other faiths.”

That Islam has produced its share of fanatics should come as no surprise. Every religion has its extremists, and there can be no denying that militant Islam’s rigid and intolerant orthodoxy is making the world a more dangerous place.

But is Islam itself the reason for terrorism, or is it something else? Has the backlash against terrorism created intolerance for Islam? And are those of us in the military doing enough to ensure that Muslims in uniform are enjoying the same tolerance of their faith as those from different religions?

Islam is the second largest religion in the world, totaling more

than 1.3 billion believers. Less than 20 percent of the Muslims in the world are Arab, and all Arab countries have populations that believe in other religions. Indonesia has the world’s largest Islamic population — 88 percent of citizens are Muslim.

In the United States, Islam is the fastest growing religion. There are currently five to seven million Muslims who are U.S. citizens.

There is also a substantial number of Muslims in the U.S. military; between 10,000 and 20,000 U.S. service members consider themselves followers of Islam.

In the U. S. Army, Muslims are afforded the same rights to worship as any other religion.

“The Army tries to accommodate different religions,” said Col. Hanson Boney, Fort Eustis chaplain. “There have been Muslims in the Army for the past 40 years. There are times we can’t accommodate religions, like in times of war, but Muslims have no harder time worshiping in the Army than any other religion.”

Some Muslims are finding that the backlash against terrorism has made it harder for them to practice their faith.

Matthew Hicks, a Soldier in E Company, 71st Transportation Battalion, said he was “jumped” after 9-11. “People get the wrong idea about Muslims,” he said. “They think I’m a terrorist or going to blow something up.”

In 2002, Hicks changed his name from Abdulaziz Gazah so he wouldn’t have to face the prejudice associated with an Islamic name.

After joining the Army, Hicks also faced discrimination.

“When I was in Basic,” he said, “I told my drill sergeant that I wanted to attend Muslim service and he at first didn’t believe me and then started ranking on me, so I stopped going to the services all together.”

After that incident, Hicks decided he was not going to tell anyone he is a Muslim. He arrived on Fort Eustis

two weeks ago and had not even told his battle buddy about his Islamic beliefs.

One of the five pillars of the Muslim faith is to pray five times a day. As an Initial Entry Soldier, it has been difficult for Hicks to find time to pray.

“I have had zero time to pray,” he said. “But in the Islamic faith it is not so much that you have to pray, it’s if you have the time or make the intent. It is all about your intent.”

The Jacksonville, Fla., native who speaks Arabic said he joined the Army to work as a translator in the Persian Gulf.

“Most fights start from a misunderstanding,” Hicks said. “I’d like to go over there and help clear up some of those misunderstandings.”

Hicks, whose parents are from Saudi Arabia, said he spent some time in that country growing up, but that he is “born and raised American.”

“I am so loyal to the United States,” he said. “My grandfather served in the U.S. (Army) Air Corps and even when I was in Saudi Arabia I told everyone I was American.”

Spc. David Burgos, operations clerk for the 492nd Harbormaster Detachment, who has been an active Muslim for 25 years, said Islam helped give him direction and hope.

“I came from a broken home and when my parents divorced I became a ward of the State,” Burgos said. “The path I was walking was one of crime and drugs and it was the light of Islam that brought me off that path.”

Before joining the Army, Burgos faced prejudice because of his faith during the first Gulf War.

“There was a lot of backlash as a Muslim for me in the workplace,” he said. “Coworkers would place notes that said, ‘Go back to your own country’ or ‘Muslims are trouble makers.’”

Like Hicks, Burgos also did not

mention his beliefs during Initial Entry Training. “I wasn’t sure how it would be accepted,” he said.

Since then, Burgos has spent eight years on Fort Eustis, and he said working here has enabled him to actively pursue his faith.

“My unit has always been accepting,” he said. “They let me to go to Jumah (prayer) at 1300 on Friday and they always inquire about me during Ramadan, especially for PT (physical training). Since Ramadan is a time of fasting and no liquids during the day, they have allowed me to do PT later in the day.”

Burgos said he has experienced no discrimination or prejudice here, even after 9-11.

“The whole year after 9-11 I had people asking me questions about Islam, but I don’t believe any of them were in a negative manner,” he said. “Fort Eustis has been good for me as far as being Muslim and wearing the green uniform.”

The United States has several allies among the Arab nations, and many Arab countries send their soldiers to the Transportation School here for training.

Sebastian Velilla, international military student specialist with the T-School, helps ensure that Muslims who visit Fort Eustis to train are allowed to practice their beliefs.

“We have students from the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Egypt,” he said. “Next year we will have 223 Arab students.”

Friday, 15 Arabs from the school joined together at the Islamic Center here to pray. Sgt. Maj. Alkhedaïd Aazib, an aviation soldier from Saudi Arabia, led the prayers.

He said it has been “easy” to practice his faith since coming to Fort Eustis and that he has not faced any discrimination because of his beliefs.

“Because we are working with

Americans here, they get to know us and we get along well,” he said. “We are treated like equals.”

Aazib stressed that Islam is a religion of peace.

“We believe in peace for every person and every country,” he said. “You cannot be a Muslim and be a murderer or killer.”

Hicks and Burgos agreed.

“Islam is actually a peaceful religion,” said Hicks. “When Muslims say hello we say, ‘Peace be upon you’ and when we return the greeting we say ‘Peace be back to you.’”

Burgos said the Koran teaches peace and nonviolence.

“I have read the Koran several times and there,” he said. “Islam teaches its followers to be peaceful. Islam is all about giving life, not taking it.”

However, the question still remains: If Islam is such a peaceful religion, why then are there schools in such traditionally allied nations like Pakistan and Saudi Arabia that teach intolerance and hatred? And why do terrorists use Islam to justify their violent actions?

Hicks believes it has to do more with the politics than the faith.

“(Terrorism) is not Islam,” he said. “It’s certain people with messed up ways. Bin Ladin’s hatred comes from his hatred of the United States, not his religion.”

Burgos agreed.

“Some people who call themselves Muslims are angry about what is going on in the politics of their region,” agreed Burgos.

Despite a few isolated cases, Muslims who serve in the United States armed forces are proving their loyalty to this country. They should be afforded the same rights and privileges afforded their non-Muslim brothers in arms.

As Americans, we set the example. Let’s be sure that example is one that includes tolerance for people of all religious faiths.

Young marriage in the military not doomed to failure. Maybe you float



JACEY ECKHART
On the Homefront

Every time I went through the line at Starbucks, someone was asking Lacie about her upcoming wedding. She was marrying a 22-year old Marine between his college graduation and his orders to Quantico.

That wasn’t enough of an event to make the regulars quiz a worker about her personal life. I think we just liked to watch this particular girl float. Because Lacie seemed to float a little every time she mentioned the name of her fiancé. Do you know what I mean?

She was the kind of bride whose happiness seemed to change the molecular structure of her body so that the laws of gravity didn’t apply to her anymore.

Until one afternoon when someone asked how old she was. “I’m 20,” she admitted. “Everyone tells me that’s young to get married.”

Everyone nodded in agreement. But I just shrugged. “That’s not too young. I was 21 when we got married and Brad has been in the Navy the whole time. We’ll be married 20 years next Wednesday.”

“Wednesday? We’re getting married that Saturday!” she said. Then she stopped. “Your name is Jacey. My name is Lacie. You’re married to Brad. I’m marrying Chad. They’re both in the military. Maybe it’s a sign.”

One of the customers pressed her lips together. As if the sign was that Lacie was too young to get married and I was just lucky not to be three times divorced. I quickly agreed to meet Lacie for lunch. I worried about it for three days afterwards.

By the time I got to the restaurant, all I could think of was how Brad and I were so poor as newlyweds that we ate scrambled eggs and honeymoon potatoes for dinner three days a week. I learned what bitter cold meant in our first housing in Massachusetts. I drove for hours with the dogs in the car because I couldn’t bear the loneliness.

And that was during peacetime. I was

going to encourage this sweet girl to marry a Marine in the middle of a war?

I had to be crazy. Or justifying my own decisions. We military people do marry too young. According to Department of Defense statistics, over half of all military members 18 – 24 are married. No one has any business getting married that young. Surely I ought to be telling Lacie to live with her lieutenant first or carry on a long distance relationship online or write him off as her first love and move on.

Other loves would come for a girl like that.

Then she walked toward me. And she had that darn float on. What can you do with a girl that

floats?

So we sat down over salads. She told me about how she already looked into finishing her degree online, but that was going to be harder than she thought. She had contacted the Starbucks in Quantico about transferring there. She told me about how they would probably move four times in the next couple of years and how you couldn’t predict where the Corps would send you and when. The questions she had for me showed that she put

a lot of thought into the whole thing.

I watched her settle her ducks in a neat little row. I had a row like that myself in 1987. Those ducks didn’t stay in a row. They never do. Was that reason enough not to get married?

I could not make myself think so. I’d like to. I’d like to be a more practical woman. I’d like to think that a love that makes your feet skim the surface of the earth comes along every day.

It doesn’t. It doesn’t.

I’m not supposed to say that. I’m supposed to believe that you have to be all you can be before you marry. You have to be completely grown up and settled and practically menopausal before you are really ready to settle down.

That’s true. I am certain that is true. But it seems less applicable in the face of the float.

Some people really do get lucky. Sometimes the right person does come along when you are in your early 20’s.

Sometimes two young people manage to grow up together. Wind around each other. Shelter each other. Impress each other. Offer kindness upon kindness. Sometimes people manage that for 20 or 40 or 63 years and when they walk toward you, you can’t help but know that they still have the float. And nothing is better than that. Nothing.



Dear Demetrius,
I have noticed more organic products in the grocery store, and I’ve heard from friends who say they feel better using these products and encourage me to use them also. What is

HEALTHY EMPOWERMENT

BY DEMETRIUS WILLIS

your advice regarding organic foods?

“Feeling the Organic Peer Pressure”
Tiffany

Dear Tiffany,
It sound like you have nice friends.

Organic foods can be considered part of the “Green”

movement that encourages us to take a second look at taking care of our environment.

The bonus is that when we take care of the planet we take care of our bodies as well.

For foods to use the title “organic” they must follow specific rules regarding chemicals used in the growing process from start to finish.

Decreased and more health conscious chemicals equal a decrease in toxic chemicals that

end up in the ground, air, water, and food supply.

We are also referring to preservatives that are used to make products look attractive to consumers and prevent them from going bad on the long delivery hauls from coast to coast, or more applicable to us, the long boat ride from the U.S. to Germany.

Studies have shown that people who eat organic foods have lower levels of pesticides in their bodies.

These extra chemicals can be

connected to such diseases as asthma and cancer.

For more information on organic foods, [visit www.organicconsumers.org/](http://www.organicconsumers.org/)

Demetrius

Send your nutrition and fitness questions to usaggnews@EUR.army.mil. Willis is a registered dietician and a certified personal trainer.

Deployment fair a ‘success’ despite low turnout

Story and photo by KATIE COWART
Assistant editor

The effort to get Families and Soldiers ready to deploy continued with the pre-deployment fair held July 11-13 at the Vilseck Memorial Fitness Center.

The fair, hosted by the Vilseck Army Community Services, targeted both Soldiers and their Families, according to Vicky Cunningham, ACS volunteer coordinator.

“It provided information for the Soldier to let him know his Family would have stuff to do while he’s gone and will be taken care of,” she said.

A wide array of services was represented, including Boy Scouts, chapel services, Community Spouses clubs, the library, Red Cross, and ADAC.

Cunningham said that bringing all of these organizations together was important to ensure Families were

properly prepared for deployment.

“It’s easier for people to come to one location,” Cunningham said. “I think people got more information than they realized they needed by having it all in one place.”

The 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment squadrons also had representatives on hand. The Family Readiness Support assistants handed out their Red and White Book, an all-in-one information book for Families, and an Elmo book to help kids understand the deployment process.

They were also available to answer questions Family members or Soldiers might have about contacting the rear detachment or how to stay involved, said Barbara Roy, the 1-2 FRSA.

“So much is going on in the community, (Families) need a one-stop-shop instead of driving all over and having to make appointments and waiting in line,” Roy said.

She said she thought having ADAC at the fair was a very good opportunity for Families to get information they might not otherwise receive.

“Many Families were unaware of the emergency services (ADAC) offered, but they were on post in a friendly environment and it was fun,” Roy said.

Cunningham said that many people complimented ACS on the amount of information available, but she was disappointed with the turnout. She said about 10,000 people were expected to attend the three-day event, but only about 500-600 Soldiers and Family members came through.

The dates of the fair may have been a factor in the poor turnout, she said.

“It would have been more of a success had it been earlier than right at block leave, but as is it was (still) successful,” said Cunningham.



Germany’s emergency roadside assistance company ADAC was one of many service providers passing out information to Soldiers and Families at the July 11-13 pre-deployment fair.

Stars & Stripes Road Guide key to safe, smart European travel

by CHERYL BOUJNIDA
European Stars & Stripes marketing specialist

If you’re planning a road trip in Germany, take along a copy of Stars and Stripes Road Guide.

“The Road Guide is a comprehensive manual that has everything you would need whether you’re taking a short or long distance trip — it’s a handy, reference guide that fits nicely in the glove box,” said Matt Bush, European Stars and Stripes marketing manager.

The guide, published annually, can be used all year long and features a map of Germany with filling stations that accept the AAFES gas coupons.

A city-to-city grid provides drivers with kilometer distances so they can calculate how long it will take to travel to and from major German cities.

“There are lots of travel and safety tips, an explanatory section on German traffic signs, and an accident report that can be filled out in the

event of an emergency,” Bush said.

“The ‘What to do if involved in an accident’ form can help drivers focus on getting vital information if military and German police are not readily available or if an accident occurs in a remote location,” he explained

Should travelers encounter a language-impaired quandary that requires knowledge of German, they can reference the emergency phrase page.

“Even if you can’t control what happens on the road, you can plan your trip wisely by being prepared with the Road Guide,” he said.

Before heading out, pick up a free copy of the Stars and Stripes Road Guide. It’s available at Army and Air Force Exchange Service, AAFES, car care centers and gas stations and vehicle registration and driver’s testing offices.

“The Road Guide is bound to make motoring in Germany a bit more safe and enjoyable,” Bush said “So, travel smart and don’t hit the road without it.”



Photo courtesy of DeCA-Europe

U.S. Army Grafenwoehr’s new commissary will open Sept. 26. The commissary, which cost \$14.5 million to build, boasts a 27,337 square feet of sales floor (20,971 square feet larger than the current commissary, which was built in 1956). Shoppers can also enjoy 10 checkout lanes, including four self-checkouts, 3,000 new line items, and a deli with a self-service bakery. After the new store opens, the current Grafenwoehr Commissary will close and the Vilseck Commissary will remain open. The newly constructed PX, part of the garrison’s new PX/Commissary shopping complex, will also open Sept. 26. Shelves are currently being stocked in preparation for the opening of what will be the largest PX in Europe.

FDA warns consumers of botulism danger in certain brands of hot dog chili sauces

Defense Commissary Agency

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is warning consumers not to eat certain brands of hot dog chili sauce listed in a July 18 voluntary recall because of possible botulism contamination.

Food safety officials at the Defense Commissary Agency said that DeCA carries two of the 10 product brands mentioned - Castleberry Hot Dog Chili Sauce (UPC: 03030000101) and Castleberry Chili with Beans (UPC: 030300001015).

The voluntary recall by the Castleberry Food Company lists products with “best by” dates of April 30, 2009 through May 22, 2009.

“Best by” dates are found on the can lids:

■ Castleberry Hot Dog Chili Sauce - 10 oz can - UPC: 3030000101 (sold in commissaries)

■ Castleberry Chili with Beans - 15 oz can - UPC: 30300 01015 (sold in commissaries)

■ Castleberry’s Barbecue Pork - 10oz can - UPC: 3030000402

■ Austex Hot Dog Chili Sauce - 10 oz can - UPC: 3030099533.

■ Kroger Hot Dog Chili Sauce - 10 oz can - UPC: 11110 83942

■ Bunker Hill Chili no Beans - 10 oz can - UPC: 75266 04112

■ Cattle Drive Chili with Beans - 15oz can - UPC: 30300 01515

■ Meijer Corned Beef Hash - 15oz can - UPC: 1250 95229

■ Morton House Corned Beef Hash - 15oz

can - UPC: 75266 65830

■ Southern Home Corned Beef Hash - 15oz can - UPC: 07880 15360

Botulism can be fatal. According to the FDA, two children in Texas and an Indiana couple who ate these products became seriously ill and have been hospitalized.

Individuals who show these symptoms and who may have recently eaten the affected products should seek immediate medical attention.

Symptoms of botulism poisoning can begin from six hours to two weeks after eating food that contains the toxin.

Symptoms may include double vision, blurred vision, drooping eyelids, slurred speech, difficulty swallowing, dry mouth, and muscle weakness that moves progressively down the body, affecting the shoulders first then descending to the upper arms, lower arms, thighs, calves, etc.

Botulism poisoning can also cause paralysis of the breathing muscles which can result in death unless assistance with breathing (mechanical ventilation) is provided.

Commissary patrons who have any of these products at home should stop using it, empty the contents in the trash, take the product label off the can and return the label to the store from which they purchased it for a full refund.

Castleberry recommends calling the 1-888-203-8446 for any questions about this recall.

Consumers can also call the FDA at 1-888-SEAFOOD for updates.

Don't forget!

School starts Aug. 27



1. Schools are open now for parents to complete their child's registration. If you have not completed registration, make an appointment today!
2. Pick up your child's school supply list at the school today!
3. Ensure students' physicals are up to date if they plan to participate in sports activities.

Due to our printer’s regularly scheduled Urlaub, we will not publish an Aug. 8 issue. The next issue will be published Aug. 22!

Lange takes command of 1-4 Infantry

Story and photo by
Spc. JERRY WILSON
JMTC PAO

"Today marks a change in leadership for the Warrior Battalion, an opportunity to reflect on the Battalion's accomplishments over the last two years and a time to welcome a new command team to the helm of 1-4 Infantry Battalion, one of the oldest and most decorated units in the Army," said Col. Thomas S. Vandal, commander of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center.

Vandal was addressing a crowd gathered the morning of July 17 at Warriors Field in Hohenfels to say goodbye to the former commander of the 1st Battalion 4th Infantry Regiment, Lt. Col. Timothy R. DeLass and welcome his successor Lt. Col. John Lange.

Lange, the former brigade operations officer and deputy commander of the Ranger Training

Brigade at Fort Benning, Ga., assumed command of the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment at JMRC during a change of command ceremony July 17.

Lange succeeded DeLass, who is leaving his command but not JMRC. DeLass is moving on to work in the operations group of the Observer/Controllers known as the Raptors at JMRC.

"I have truly been blessed with the Army's greatest," said DeLass, looking out at the Soldiers he commanded for the last two years. "Whether it was during a hex fight with 1-1 CAV or insurgents or during even value exchanges to Astonia, Romania, or Poland, or shooting tank gunnery, you guys always raised the bar higher and never let me down."

Lange was commissioned as an infantry officer in 1989 upon graduation from the U.S. Military Academy and has held a variety of key positions throughout his career.

Lange went on to serve as a staff

officer with the Intelligence and Security Command at Fort Belvoir, Va., as well as on the Joint Staff and the Army Staff at the Pentagon.

"My efforts will always be focused on mission accomplishment and the welfare of our Soldiers and their Families," Lange said. "The Battalion standing before you today is charged with two complex and unique missions both critical to success in the current fight. Whether standing on the parade field here today, supporting missions in the Box, or in Afghanistan with Team Bulldog taking the fight to the enemy, I am humbled and honored to join your ranks here today."

Lange is a graduate of the Infantry Officers Basic and Advanced courses, the Field Artillery Officer Advanced Course, and the Command and General Staff College.

Lange is Ranger qualified and a master parachutist.

The 1-4 conducts a unique and dual mission. As the Opposing Force



Lt. Col. John Lange took command of the 1-4 Infantry Battalion during a July 17 change of command ceremony.

at JMRC, 1-4 Soldiers continuously train fellow U.S. Soldiers, as well as the Coalition troops preparing to deploy.

The 1-4 conducts a full spectrum

of combat readiness exercises designed to prepare U.S. Army Europe Soldiers and their Coalition partners for such battlefields as Iraq and Afghanistan.

Deputy EUCOM commander to lead AFRICOM

by DONNA MILES
American Forces Press Service

President Bush named Army Gen. William E. "Kip" Ward July 10 to help stand up U.S. Africa Command as its first commander.

Ward has served as deputy commander of U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany, since May 2006. In that role, he has been responsible for the day-to-day activities for U.S. forces operating across 92 countries in Europe, Africa, Russia, parts of Asia and the Middle East, the Mediterranean and most of the Atlantic Ocean.

If confirmed to his new post, Ward will help bring AFRICOM to initial operational capacity as a command subordinate to EUCOM by October.

AFRICOM is slated to be established as a separate unified command by Sept. 30, 2008.

Ward would bring 36 years of military service and sweeping experience to the AFRICOM position.

Since his commissioning in 1971, he has served in Korea, Egypt, Somalia, Bosnia, Israel, Germany, and at posts throughout the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii.

Before taking the No. 2 job at EUCOM, Ward was deputy commander

and chief of staff for U.S. Army, Europe and 7th Army. In that capacity, he served as the U.S. security coordinator for the Israel-Palestine Authority from March to December 2005.

Ward also served as commander of the Stabilization Force during Operation Joint Force in Sarajevo, Bosnia; as commander of the 25th Infantry Division and U.S. Army, Hawaii; and as assistant division commander for the 82nd Airborne Division.

Before that, he was commander of the 10th Mountain Division's 2nd Brigade and Operation Restore Hope in Mogadishu, Somalia, and as commander of the 6th Infantry Division's 5th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 2nd Brigade and the division's logistics staff.

He has served in a long string of staff positions as well, including service as vice director for operations on the Joint Staff, chief of the Office of Military Cooperation at the U.S. Embassy in Egypt, and deputy director of operations for the National Military Command Center.

Ward holds bachelor's and master's degrees in political science from Morgan State University in Maryland and Pennsylvania State University, respectively.

If confirmed to lead AFRICOM, Ward will be responsible for consolidating U.S. government efforts and promote partnership arrangements in Africa.

In doing so, he will assume responsibilities on the African content currently shared by three combatant

commanders. U.S. Central Command has responsibility for Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia and Kenya. U.S. European Command has responsibility for the rest of the nations in the African mainland. U.S. Pacific Command has responsibility for Madagascar, the Seychelles and the Indian Ocean area off the African coast.

In announcing the AFRICOM command Feb. 6, Bush said it will strengthen security cooperation with Africa and create new opportunities to bolster the capabilities of African nations.

"Africa Command will enhance our efforts to bring peace and security to the people of Africa and promote our common goals of development, health, education, democracy and economic growth in Africa," he said.



Photo by Bilyana Atova

Award-winning chow

Uwe Mueller prepares lunch at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr's Camp Normandy Dining Facility July 19. The DFAC serves about 700 Soldiers and civilians daily. After winning the Installation Managment Command-Europe level competition, the facility is preparing to participate in the Department of the Army level competition for the prestigious Philip A. Connelly Award. Camp Normandy will compete against DFACs in South Korea, Hawaii and the U.S.

Operation Walk 4 Freedom gets Families fit during deployment

by TRACY SVALINA
Special to the Bavarian News

With so many troops deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan what can we do to make a difference in our community?

Operation Walk 4 Freedom is a community wellness initiative established to foster support for everyone in the community and especially those affected by the deployment. The objective is to accumulate enough miles to equal the distance to Afghanistan or Iraq through walking and other activities.

How do I sign-up? Come to one of the four fitness assessments at the Grafenwoehr Physical Fitness Center and Rose Barracks Fitness Center to enroll and complete the fitness assessment. After you have completed the assessment you will be given a pedometer, provided by the Garrison, to track your every step.

How do I track my miles? At the assessment you will be given a mileage log, which you will use to keep track of your miles. You will also be given a point of contact with whom to e-mail your monthly mileage.

Can I participate if I am returning back to the States for the deployment? You can still

submit your mileage to your point of contact and those miles will be added to the unit's total.

Do physical activities other than walking count toward mileage? For activities like running or biking, log the actual miles. For activities such as weightlifting, aerobics, tennis, karate, and soccer, you earn one mile for every 15 minutes of sustained activity.

Can I earn miles for participating in any other activities? You earn 25 miles for attending

or participating in events that directly relate to health and wellness, such as attending classes or workshops offered by participating agencies like ACS and WIC, volunteering for a health or well-being cause, and participation at Walk 4 Freedom activities and events. Double miles will be offered if participating in any Garrison or MWR sponsored walk or run.

When does the program begin? The program will begin on Sept. 8 with a 5K kick-off at Little Mike Lake in Vilseck at 10 a.m.

When will the program end? The program will conclude on Sept. 15, 2008.

For more information on this program, contact Tracy Svalina, Health Promotion Coordinator, at DSN 475-8433 or CIV 09641-838433 or via e-mail tracy.svalina@us.army.mil.



USAREUR officials urge drivers to keep license, registration up to date

by Spc. SEAN FINCH
U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs Office

United States Army Europe officials are reminding drivers to be sure to renew their USAREUR licenses and vehicle registrations to avoid fines and penalties.

Officials said allowing licenses to expire is one of the most common traffic offenses in the command. Because the USAREUR license is valid for five years from its issue date, many drivers forget to check the expiration date.

Claus Hensley, a traffic clerk with the U.S. Army Garrison Heidelberg Provost Marshal's

Office, noted that driving with a suspended or expired license carries with it the potential for a criminal report that can even follow drivers back to their homes in the United States.

Driving on an expired license can result in suspension or revocation of the license. Driving on a suspended or revoked license carries with it the penalty of having the license revoked for no less than five years — and possibly indefinitely, said Hensley.

"It's also worth noting that anyone who allows someone to operate their vehicle without a valid license can suffer the same repercussions," added Hensley, who has been

with the PMO nearly four years.

"Those (drivers) I've seen get this offense state that they forgot or didn't notice that the license had expired," said Maj Valerie Henderson, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, USAREUR.

Henderson said as a commander she is concerned that she has noticed a recent increase in driving offenses.

For example, the major said, there has also been an increase in drivers operating vehicles on expired registrations.

"Most registration violations we hear about are on post and usually called in by military

police or the Ponds guards (the civilian guards posted at the entrances to many USAREUR installations)," said Hensley. "For the first offense we will confiscate the (license) plates from the vehicle and the operator must rectify the situation before he can have his plates returned."

If a driver is cited with a second registration violation within a two-year period, his license is automatically suspended for 90 days, said Hensley.

To ensure registrations and driver's licenses remain valid, Hensley suggested drivers circle the dates of their expiration on their calendars.

Don't miss Grafenwoehr's 50th annual German-American Volksfest Aug. 3-5



DATE	OPEN	CLOSE
3 August 2007, Friday	1100 Opening Ceremonies	2400
3 August 2007, Friday	1100 -1230 (German Band Tent)	
3 August 2007, Friday	1100 Family Day (All day REDUCED prices on rides)	
3 August 2007, Friday	1100 -1400 "Traditional German Band in Beer Tent" "Ehenbachtaler Schnaittenbach"	
3 August 2007, Friday	1100 -1900 DJ Variety Music \1400-1600 Karaoke MWR Tent	
3 August 2007, Friday	1800 -2400 "Traditional German Band in Beer Tent" "Pressather Musikanten"	
3 August 2007, Friday	1900 -2400 MWR Tent Live Band "AMOKOMA" R&B / SOUL	
4 August 2007, Saturday	1100 Fest Opens	2400
4 August 2007, Saturday	1100 -1900 DJ Variety Music \1500-1800 Karaoke MWR Tent	
4 August 2007, Saturday	1230 -1730 "Traditional German Band in Beer Tent" "Stadtkapelle Kemnath"	
4 August 2007, Saturday	1900 -2400 "Traditional German Band in Beer Tent" "Swingers Schwandorf"	
4 August 2007, Saturday	1900 -2400 MWR Tent Live Band "JIGGER JAM" TOP 40 / ROCK	
5 August 2007, Sunday	1100 Fest Opens	2300
5 August 2007, Sunday	1100 -1900 DJ Variety Music \1400-1700 Karaoke MWR Tent	
5 August 2007, Sunday	1300-1700 C & W Fashion Show & Square Dancing	
5 August 2007, Sunday	1200 -1730 "Traditional German Band in Beer Tent" "Blaskapelle Diessfurt"	
5 August 2007, Sunday	1800 -2100 MWR Tent. Live Band Rascal and Mc Lane XXL"	
5 August 2007, Sunday	2100 -2300 MWR Tent. Live Band AFE Bombshel (pending / tentative per AFE)	
5 August 2007, Sunday	1830 -2300 "Traditional German Band in Beer Tent" "Letzaver Musikanten"	

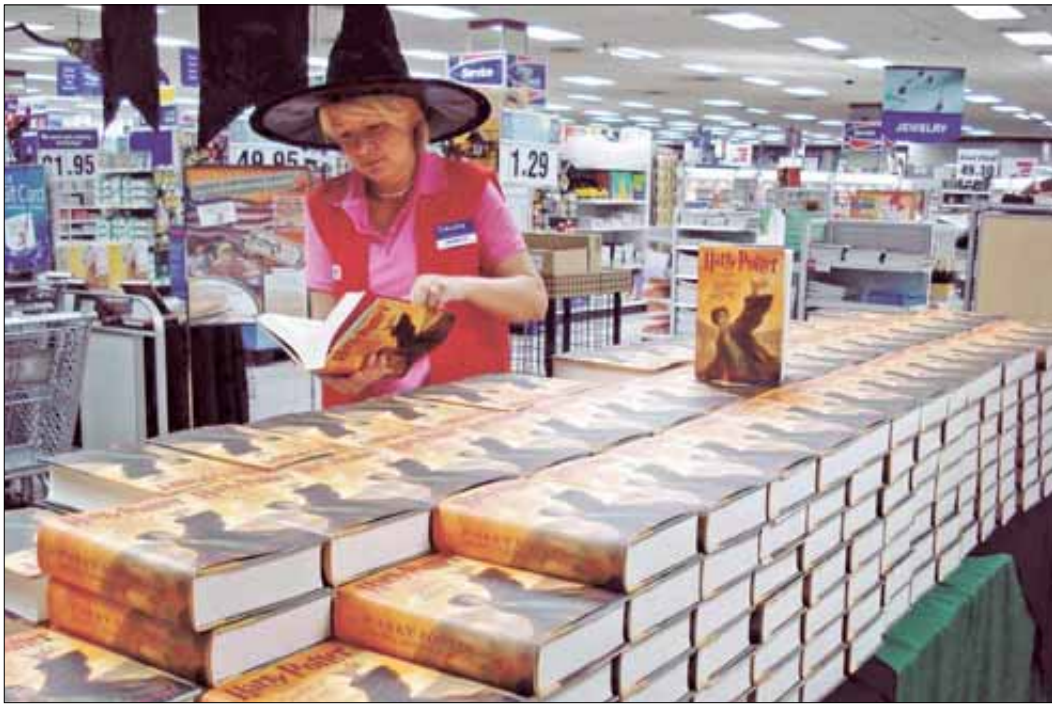


Photo by Adriane Foss

End of a magic journey

Vilseck PX cashier Claudia O'Meara browses through "Deathly Hallows," the seventh and final book in the blockbuster Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling Saturday morning after an early morning rush. The PX opened its doors at 8 a.m. Saturday to a line of customers who wanted to ensure they received a copy of the publishing phenomenon that broke worldwide pre-order book records. Deathly Hallows sold 2.2 million copies globally before its July 21 release date.



Photo by Paula Guzman

Practice makes perfect

Kim Souza teaches pre-kindergarten students (from left) Cody Foss, 5, Savannah Rowell, 5, and Tiara Thomas, 5, to write their A, B, C's at the Grafenwoehr Child Development Center July 3. The CDC's Pre-Kindergarten program is designed to prepare students who will begin school in August with the necessary skills to succeed. For more information about this or other CDC programs and events, call DSN 475-7180.

TIPS: Find out what you can do to help your child cope with deployments

- Explain that s/he will be working in a group of others who have also been trained to protect one another and do their jobs safely. Explain that at the same time, your child will continue to do the things s/he always does – growing, learning at school, and having fun.
- Encourage younger children to talk with older children who have already been through a deployment. If you don't have older children, help your child make connections with the children of relatives, friends, or other family members who are familiar with deployment.
- Take lots of pictures or make videotapes of your child and the parent who will be deploying doing everyday activities – put these pictures in a small album or display them somewhere your child can easily see them.
- Give your child a special gift before the deployment begins – a diary, a scrapbook, a watch, a bracelet – as long as it's something your child can hold and look at when s/he is missing her parent.
- Some people may want to swap personal objects, such as a small toy or patches from the deployed parent's

- favorite jeans. The parent and child can use them as mementos and look forward to swapping back after homecoming.
- Make sure your child understands s/he will be able to stay in touch with the deployed parent by writing letters, sending e-mail, talking on the phone, or sending recordings or drawings.
- Make audio or video recordings of the deployed parent reading favorite bedtime stories or singing familiar lullabies. These can be played during those times when the parent is missed most.
- Come up with ways to mark the time that is passing. Some people mark a calendar, others fill a jar with candy or stickers (one for each day the person will be gone), while others make a paper chain by adding a link for every day that the person is gone – and use the chain as a decoration when s/he returns.
- Go over the "house rules." Explain to your child that rules will not change during the deployment just because a parent is gone. Enlist older children to help around the house by taking over a chore that the missing parent always did.

Information by Navy Capt. Daphne Brown

For a listing of the employees honored during the installation's quarterly Civilian Awards Ceremony and a story on Grafenwoehr Thrift Store savings and benefits, pick up an Aug. 22 copy of the Bavarian News!!!

Super teams built on dedication, commitment

As most of you cheered for your favorite team in the Super Bowl, the Joint Multinational Readiness Center Team deserves to be cheered as it continues to do an outstanding job in Europe training European Forces as well as training our great allied partners.

Military and civilian personnel alike are going beyond the normal call of duty as they carry out tasks in their respective fields. Our military force and civilian force remain aware of



their situation, incorporating safety into all aspects of what they do and paying attention to detail.

As a result, we're on track this year for a greater number of days that have gone by since our last accident and fewer alcohol related incidents than last year.

We also haven't had any tactical vehicle rollovers or accident-related fatalities in Hohenfels this year.

Positive things like this do not happen by accident; they come about because Soldiers, leaders, and civilians are taking care of each other. Good things happen because we make them happen by looking out for our battle buddies and upholding the standards.

The results of our missions are nothing short of amazing. At any

given time, the JMRC is doing many big things, making a large impact and causing things to happen.

Believe me that senior leadership notice and appreciate the effort put forth by our service members and civilian force on a daily basis to get the mission accomplished.

We need to bear in mind that this is a long-term war, and to continue to be successful, we must stay focused and continue to take care of each other. It is a must that we keep operating as a team.

The military is a team-oriented organization and it requires all of us to work together to make things happen. The success of the military hinges on the drive and dedication of the people that comprised it.

It is not about weapons systems,

tracking charts, radios or rifles. It is about the people who put all these things together to get the job done.

The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and civilians who have lost their lives or have been wounded supporting the Global War on Terrorism remain a part of that team.

We should remember their losses and acknowledge the sacrifices made by their families. The troops who have passed on have not been lost in vain.

They died supporting a cause and a team they believed in, and as part of that team, we will honor their memories and their sacrifices by doing the right thing.

Their spirit—the spirit of duty and determination, is with us as we push forward to accomplish our

goals.

I want service members to be proud of who they are and to take pride in their accomplishments in the military. It takes a great deal of discipline and fortitude to leave our loved ones behind to defend the ideals of our nation.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you. Continue to look out for each other and be safe as you accomplish the mission.

"Train to Win and be Army Strong"

CSM Jose Santos
U.S. Army
Garrison Hohenfels

Hallo Hohenfels' newcomer class meets needs of incoming youngsters

by GARRY BARROWS
Staff writer

Most Army installations offer an orientation for Families just arriving. These classes provide direction and advice to help make permanent change of station moves easier.

U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels has taken concept to a new level with the special August Newcomer's Orientation featuring a Kids and Teens Newcomers Program.

Three age-specific group are available to allow younger community members to meet others in the same situation and have access to much needed information.

The entire August Extravaganza begins Aug. 6 at the Education Center, Bldg. 348.

The first group is for children in first through third grade, with all activities being designed specifically to meet the interests of that age group.

For example, a library tour followed by a special story time is part of the agenda.

The library staff will inform the kids where DVDs, videos, and books for their age group are located and will then present a multi media story time.

The orientation will also include a tour of the elementary school.

This is planned to help provide a comfort level for the new students who will have enough to absorb in those first few hectic days of school without having to learn classroom, lunchroom, and other school locations and facts at the same time.

Children in the fourth through sixth grade make up the second group.

Once again, an age-specific agenda will include a rundown of available Youth Sports opportunities, a School Age Services briefing, and a trip to a location on the German economy.

This middle school trip will be followed by lunch at the dining facility and many other fun activities.



Photo by Lara Clagett

Children in the Newcomer's Orientation meet other children and learn about activities available throughout the community.

The middle and high school group, grades seven through 12, will feature teenage-specific activities.

Some of these include Teen Kontak Club, Teen Center and Teen Sponsor tour and information, Summer Hire criteria, a tour of the high school, and free bowling at Lane 17 just to name a few.

Each group will include 'veterans' of the Hohenfels community to provide peer and leader advice and information.

The Hallo Hohenfels adult Newcomers

Orientation will be held at the same time.

The dual orientations will allow school-age kids and teens, as well as available parents and individuals, to have a Hohenfels orientation while taking advantage of the free child care for those who are too young for these programs.

All children must be registered with CLEOS to be able to participate in the fun.

For more information or to register, contact Precilla Tolbert at Army Community Service at DSN 466-2084/4860 or stop at Bldg. 317 today.

NOTES ON FAITH

By Chaplain (Maj.) Gail Porter
Hohenfels Family Life Chaplain

God's order is the perfect 'recipe'

Over the years I have collected many stories about life. There are lots of stories, as life gets pretty complicated sometimes!

One that always touches me is called "A Piece of Cake." Sometimes, we wonder "what did I do to deserve this," or "Why did God have to do this to me."

Here is a God-sent explanation.

A daughter is telling her mother how everything is going wrong. She is failing algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her, and her best friend is moving away.

Meanwhile, her mother is baking a cake. She asks her daughter if she would like a snack, and the daughter says, "Absolutely, Mom, I love your cake."

"Here, have some cooking oil," her mother offers.

"Yuck!" says her daughter.

"How about a couple of raw eggs?"

"Gross, Mom!"

"Would you like some flour then? Or maybe some baking soda?"

"Mom, those are all yucky!"

To which the mother replies: "Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake."

"God works the same way. Many times we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times. But God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good!"

"We just have to trust Him and, eventually, they will all make something wonderful."

Hope your day is a "piece of cake."

Hohenfels chosen to host girls' junior softball tournament in 2008

by HEATHER MASTERPOOL
and RACHEL HARTMAN
Special to the Bavarian News

For the last two years, our local Hohenfels Junior Softball team has placed first for the Europe wide IMCOM Jr. Softball Championships.

This past season, the Hohenfels Youth Sports Junior Softball team was undefeated and finished out the IMCOM-Europe tournament untouchable in Heidelberg!

Due to this exciting event, Hohenfels has been selected to host the IMCOM-Europe Junior Softball Championships in June 2008.

This will be a major Youth Sports event for the Junior Girls, which are ages 13-15. Hohenfels will welcome eight other installations from Europe to participate in the tournament.

The tournament play and championship game will take place at the Hohenfels Community Sportplatz.

More information will be provided in come as the championships gets

closer.

YS coaches needed

Year round, Youth Sports is looking for prospective coaches.

There are several qualities we look for in a youth sports coach: knowledgeable sports fans, organized individual, great attitude, and someone who loves to have fun while working with kids!

Volunteering is a great way to give back to your community. Why not start with Youth Sports?

As adults, we are role models and we need to promote good sportsmanship and foster good character by T.E.A.M.: teaching, enforcing, advocating and modeling the six core ethical principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship.

How can we do this?

Here are several ways to promote Character Counts within a Youth Sports setting:

Trustworthiness – Always pursue victory with honor, demonstrate integrity in all things and observe the spirit and letter of rules, strive to develop and demonstrate good character and high ethics as well as athletic ability.

Respect – Be a good sport, treat the traditions of the sport and other participants with respect, don't engage in or tolerate disrespectful conduct including verbal abuse of opponents and officials, win with grace and lose with dignity.

Responsibility – Be a leader on and off the playing field, strive to develop life skills to help you become successful and socially responsible, master the rules, strategies and techniques of your sport.

Fairness – Adhere to high standards of fair play, treat teammates and opponents fairly, be open-minded.

Caring – Play safe, never intentionally injure any player or engage in reckless behavior.



Courtesy photo

The Hohenfels 2007 Jr. Softball team members included **Tori Adams, Teresa Brunnelson, Jessica Feltz, Jane Herzig, Britney Higginbotham, Mandy LaVanway, Stephanie Leija, Taylor Lewis, Rebecca Matheson, Briana Ramirez, Joselyn Ruffin, Nariah Sablan, Maegan Salazar, and Tiffany Taylor.**

Citizenship – Avoid gamesmanship and demonstrate sportsmanship by honoring the rules and goals or your sport.

If you think you have what it takes to be a T.E.A.M. player and are interested in coaching, stop by Bldg. 46, or call DSN 466-2488.

Naturally 7 wows Hohenfels audience



The scene was the USAG Hohenfels Community Activities Center, July 18, and preparing to go on stage was the AFE band Naturally 7.

While there were no band instruments set on the stage that did not seem to worry the members of the band. They spent their time vocally warming up backstage and then once on stage there were the sounds of the bass drum, snake drum, cymbals, electric guitar, electric piano, bass guitar, harmonica and amazing vocals.

A full orchestra and yet there were only the seven guys on stage with microphones. Ninety minutes later, the crowd was once again on its feet with yet another standing ovation.

These seven guys from New York were outstanding and the 120 people in attendance were awestruck with the program they had just enjoyed.

Naturally 7 is an amazing group and if you get another chance to attend one of their concerts, run, don't walk to get your tickets.

Photo by Joanne Love

Summer Hire helps work flow smoothly

by MICHELE WOLFF
Special to the Bavarian News

Even with a 50 percent cut in Summer Hire allocations this year, Summer Hire in Hohenfels continues to improve. Now that the training program has been firmly in place for three years, we thought that we would try something new.

This year we have started the "Guest Worker Program". This program came about last year when organizations were closed for one day or more due to training holidays and mission requirements that took them away from the office.

When this happened, Summer Hires had to take leave without pay since they had no where to work when their place of duty was closed.

How it works is that the School Liaison is notified of the organizations closure and the Summer Hire is placed in another organization on a temporary basis.

The great part is that the

Summer Hire doesn't lose any pay and an organization can have temporary help without committing to the entire six week program. Another great benefit is that if an organization that already employs Summer Hires has a large project, they can also borrow from the Guest Worker Program.

This new program gives Summer Hires a variety of work experience as well as helping out organizations all over post.



Photo by Joseph Hascin

Darryl Rogers of DPW is working hard pulling up overgrown weeds and saplings.

Bloomberg replaces Matheson as new Hohenfels commander

Story and photo by
GARRY BARROWS
Staff writer

USAG Hohenfels took advantage of a beautiful warm sunny day to welcome Lt. Col. Gary E. Bloomberg as commander in a July 17 ceremony at the airfield.

Bloomberg comes to Hohenfels from MacDill Air Force Base, just south of Tampa, Fla., where he served as a Joint Exercise Planner with the United States Joint Exercise Operations Command.

Bloomberg replaces Lt. Col. James V. Matheson who began his term of command on July 22, 2005. Matheson will remain in Hohenfels where he will join the Joint Multi-National Readiness Center as Deputy Commander.

Matheson has spearheaded many improvements to facilities including most recently a new playground for School Age Services, a new Central Processing Facility, and work is underway for a nine-room addition to the Sunrise Lodge.

In addition, Matheson has forged and strengthened relationships with



Lt. Col Gary Bloomberg accepts the colors of the USAG Hohenfels from USAG Grafenwoehr Commander Bryan Boyle during the Change of Command ceremony at Hohenfels July 17.

our German hosts and neighbors resulting in the awarding of the Bavarian Lion by the Bavarian Government Ministry in June. Matheson is only the second

American Military recipient. Bloomberg, along with his wife Ingeborg and daughter Tiffany will be settling into the town of Hohenfels as their place of residence.

One down, one to go...



New USAG Hohenfels sports logo is featured on the newly completed post gym floor. The Tiger football field is preparing for a new season and a new sod field that will include the new logo.

Photo by Garry Barrows

Gozy: Army Times 2007 Soldier of the Year Honorable Mention

Sgt. 1st Class Jarrod Gozy
Joint Multinational Readiness Center
Hohenfels, Germany

While serving in Kandahar, Afghanistan, last year with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, Sgt. 1st Class Jarrod Gozy, 33, helped design force protection procedures and was the noncommissioned officer in charge of security at his base's main gate.

Locals with appointments at the hospital came through that gate and Gozy helped children feel at ease. He gave them candy, toys and took photographs of them with their families - the printouts he provided often were the first photographs the

families possessed.

In addition, he established a foundation that helped sponsor 22 schools and provided supplies for more than 20,000 students and teachers. The foundation also provided 150 beds for the children's ward of the local hospital.

Gozy, a truck driver by training, also looked after his own troops, registering with the Web site Anysoldier.com to arrange for donations from military supporters and passing along the goodies and gifts that arrived.

In Germany, where he has been for a year, he sponsored local military children to attend a middle school service project in Poland and served as an adult leader for that effort.



Gozy

Community Spotlight

What's Happening

Grafenwoehr/Vilseck Briefs

Town Hall slated for Aug. 1

The quarterly community Town Hall will be held Aug. 1 at the Vilseck Chapel at 6 p.m. and is hosted by Col. Brian T. Boyle, USAG Grafenwoehr Commander. Col. Boyle and his staff will update community members on new programs, construction, activities and events of interest to you. It is also an ideal forum to voice concerns and make a difference in your community.

Graf Shoppette opens Aug. 1

The new Grafenwoehr Shoppette will open Aug. 1 at 6:30 a.m. The shoppette has 12 pump gas openings and will run opening specials on Aug. 1.

Get your car ready for the Aug. 18 BOSS car show

The 5th Annual BOSS Car Show is happening Aug. 18. Is your car ready? Get it polished, waxed and ready to roar. For more information: SPC Maki at DSN 475-6116.

Vilseck library helps ease deployment troubles

The Vilseck library has the tools for parents heading downrange to read and record stories on DVD/ VHS. Parents being deployed can leave behind a wonderful memory for their families.

For more information, visit the library or call DSN 476-1740.

Garrison school update

Student registrations open at all school throughout the summer. Stop by and register your students for the coming school year. Registration is not completed until all documents are turned in to school.

It is recommended to call the school first to verify open hours, lunch times, and registration requirements. Information also available at each school Web site:

<http://www.graf-es.eu.dodea.edu/>
<http://www.vils-es.eu.dodea.edu/>
<http://www.graf-ms.eu.dodea.edu/>
<http://www.vils-hs.eu.dodea.edu/>
School contact information:
 GES: DSN 475-7133
 VES: DSN 476-2812
 GMS: DSN 475-9500
 VHS: DSN 476-2554
 School Transportation: DSN 475-9525
 SLO: DSN 475-1770

School supplies: Parents and students may want to pickup a copy of required school supplies available from each school.

Sports physicals: School sports practices begin Aug. 20 and a current annual physical is required. Parents and students may want to update their sports

physicals this summer.

School meals: CYS Central registration now handles all applications for free and reduced school meals. All applicants must reapply every year.

Military Family life consultants:

The Department of Defense has contracted to provide professional staff to provide non-medical counseling services to Service members and their Families and children.

The consultants for our community, Anna Jones and Loren Cronk, are here until Aug. 24.

Anna Jones is stationed at Grafenwoehr School Age Services and can be reached at DSN 475-6161 or CIV 09641-83-6161.

Loren Cronk is stationed at Vilseck School Age Services and can be reached at DSN 476-2556 or CIV 09662-83-2556.

The School Liaison Officer is the Garrison POC for this program. You can contact Steve Vojtecky at steve.vojtecky@us.army.mil for additional information.

Grafenwoehr, Vilseck technology exposition set

The expo will be held Friday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Grafenwoehr Tower View Conference Center. It will feature over 40 IT exhibitors and provides the community with cost and time effective opportunities to view, evaluate, and be educated on the latest technologies, services, and issues relevant to your mission.

Open to all base personnel, and admission is free. For more information, contact Dana Wilson at wilcox@ncsi.com.

Local training available

The Civilian Human Resource Agency Europe, Human Resource Development Division offers professional development and training opportunities at various locations in Europe.

The courses are open to DA civilians, LN's, and military. The tuition cost is free for these courses.

To check out more about the kind of training offered, course descriptions and schedule, go to our Web site <http://cpolrhp.belvoir.army.mil/eur/index.htm>.

Upcoming courses:

■ Monday and Tuesday, Communication Skills, Grafenwoehr

■ Aug. 1-2, Presentating Statistics Using Charts & Graphics, Grafenwoehr,

■ Aug. 14-16, Basic English Writing Skills, Grafenwoehr

Seats at the Digital Training Facility is limited to 16 persons only. Military members are encouraged to attend.

Graf gym closed Aug. 17

The U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Physical Fitness Center will be closed all day Aug. 17 for maintenance.

Attention creditors and debtors of Pfc. Peterson

Lightning Troop regrets to announce

the loss of Pfc. Jonathan Peterson. If there are any creditors or debtors that may have questions concerning his affairs call Capt. Morris at DSN 476-5647.

VBS dates announced

Group's Holy Land Adventure, Galilee-by-the-Sea. Join us for Vacation Bible School at the Grafenwoehr Chapel Aug. 6-10, 6–8 p.m. All ages are welcome.

Contact Dimice Perry for more information or to volunteer dimice.h.perry@us.army.mil or CIV 0961/4019871. To find out more about this program, visit group's Web site at <http://www.groupvbs.com/2007/vbs-GalileeNew/index.asp>.

Vilseck, Grafenwoehr Cub Scout Day Camp announced

Pack 240 and Pack 261 invite all boys entering first grade through fifth grade to join us for an exciting day camp full of outdoor activities and fun. Boys must be registered cub scouts, but can register at the camp.

The Egyptian themed camp runs three days, Aug. 24-26, at Dick Hauteur Lake in Grafenwoehr, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sibling care is available if parents are volunteering to help with the camp. Fee is \$45, and includes program supplies and patch at the end of camp.

Contact Tracey Jones CIV 09662-416821 or Jean Boyle CIV 09641-83-5308 for more information or to register, no later than Aug. 1.

Eagle Scout service project looking for volunteers

On Aug. 11, Calvin J. Van Patten will be performing his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project at the Grafenwoehr Prisoner of War Cemetery, located behind Bldg. 103. This project includes the cleaning of head stones, steps and walls, cutting of bushes and grass, minor tree trimming, touch up painting of the sign, and general landscaping and cleaning of the area.

Anyone interested is assisting in this project for the community should contact Calvin at CIV 09644-680040. The project starts at 9 a.m. Equipment and refreshments will be provided.

Girl Scouts to hold Twilight Camp at Big Mike Lake

Come join the Grafenwoehr & Vilseck Girl Scouts for the Twilight Camp at Big Mike Lake Aug. 20-23. Our Daisies and Brownies will have an opportunity to discover the artist within during the first two evenings of camp. The final two evenings of camp will be dedicated to our Juniors, Cadettes and Seniors as they gain useful experience on the water. For more information, or to register visit <http://grafgirlscouts.googlepages.com/upcomingactivities>.

CTC Term 1 registration runs Monday-Aug. 17

Central Texas College Vilseck/ Grafenwoehr is offering the following three vocational-technical courses in the upcoming Term 1: AUMT 2413 - Manual Drive Trains & Axles; CDEC 1303 – Families, School & Community; and CJSA 1317 – Juvenile Justice System.

All three classes are classroom-based and lead to an Associate in Applied Science degree. All classes this term will be held in Vilseck at the Army Education Center or the CTC Auto Shop for the AUMT class.

Term 1 registration is Monday – Aug. 10 with late registration allowed up to Aug. 17. The class dates are Aug. 20 – Oct. 13.

Contact CTC field representative Chuck Sligh at the Vilseck or Grafenwoehr Education Center for more information on these and other available programs at DSN 476-2362, CIV 09662-83-2362, or by e-mail at vilseck@europe.ctcd.edu.

Kaiserslautern Western Night supports scholarships

The annual American Western Night to support scholarships for American and German students of business-related courses, will be held Aug. 4, beginning at 7 pm, at the Jean Schoen Park in the Kaiserslautern Gartenschau. The event is sponsored by the Kaiserslautern American German Business Club. There is no charge for admission to the event, though contributions to the AGBC scholarship fund will be appreciated.

A map showing directions from various locations to the Gartenschau is at: http://www.gartenschau-kl.de/web_2/html/content/anfahrt/print_autobah.htm.

Hohenfels Briefs

Health clinic announces hours for sports physicals

The health clinic will be holding Saturday clinic hours from 8-11 a.m. Aug. 25 for CYS and high school sports physicals.

Note that these days are specifically for sports physicals and not for yearly school or CDC physicals or for well-baby or children appointments. Call DSN 466-1750 to schedule your appointment.

Sure Start program at HES

Hohenfels Elementary School is now accepting applications for the 2007-2008 school year. If you have a child who is four or will be four by Oct. 31, 2007 and you are an E4 or lower in rank, come by the elementary school and fill out an application.

At this time all we need is your LES and the application. Priority will be given to E-1 to E-4 or GS-1 to GS-4. Those with the greatest need using a criteria list will be considered.

E-5/GS-5 to E-9/GS-9 and above may apply and be given consideration by the selection committee only if space is available. For more information, call DSN 466- 2729 or CIV 09472-83-2729.

CDC sponsors summer activities for kids

Hohenfels Turnbull Memorial Library is currently running a Summer Reading Program through Aug. 15.

Beginner Readers (ages 3-5) will meet every Wednesday at 10 a.m., Advanced Readers (ages 6-8) will meet every Wednesday at noon, and Independent Readers (ages 9 and above) will meet every Wednesday at 2 p.m.

For additional information call DSN 466-1740 or CIV 09472-83-1740.

The Four corners Music Festival at the Four Corners Music Hall Friday-Sunday, Siemensstr. 1, 86836 Untermeitingen, CIV 08232/904841.

Motorcycle safety class set

This is a reminder for all motorcycle riders with expired MSF Cards, who will lose their USAREUR Driver License (Class 1).

Call the Hohenfels Garrison Safety Office, ASAP to reserve a MSF- Experienced Rider Motorcycle Safety Class on either Aug. 1, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. or on Aug. 2, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Camp Albertshof, Hardstand #3, Hohenfels.

The Motorcycle Safety Training Site is located just a block south of the five corners intersection of Camp Albertshof, on the road to Gate 5. E-mail: daniel.voglesong@eur.army.mil or johann.hammer@eur.army.mil, or call DSN 466-1670 to reserve.

One Act play auditions

The Hohenfels Box Seat Theater will be holding open auditions for the One Act Play entitled, “Soccer Moms” on Tuesday, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Community Activities Center, Bldg 40.

This play has a cast for three women ages 20-40. This play does require physical involvement. The play will be presented Sept. 14-15 and also be performed at the IMCOM-E Festival of One Act Plays in Heidelberg on Oct. 5-7. Rehearsals will begin Aug. 6.

Limited reading copies of the script will be available prior to the audition in the Entertainment Office in Bldg. 40 or call DSN 466-2340 for further information.

Make sure car meets U.S. standards before shipping

Owners of vehicles must be aware that the vehicle must meet U.S. standards when shipping it back to the U.S. All vehicles not made to U.S. standards have to be shipped through an independent commercial importer registered with the Department of Transportation and Environmental Protection.

Those vehicles need to undergo extensive conversions which are expensive and take several months to complete (see: <http://www.wallacelab.com>). This also applies to mopeds and motorcycles. Conversions carried out in Germany by German car dealers are not accepted unless the vehicle is rebuilt by the original manufacturer. However, vehicles over 25 years old are exempt from that rule. For more information see <http://>

www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/cars.htm or contact the Customs Field Office Hohenfels located in Bldg. 10, Room 118 at DSN 466-2042 / 2012 or 2745. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1-4 p.m. and closed on U.S. Holidays.

Learn about GI Bill online

Have you been thinking ahead on how you plan on using your Montgomery GI Bill benefits? A new feature has been added to the MGB Web site. You can now find a list of approved programs for education, licensing programs and testing. It is never too late or early to plan for your future. Check out the website at http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/Search_Programs.htm

Mail center has new hours

New hours are from 7:45 a.m.-4 p.m. with a lunch break from noon-12:30 p.m. daily.

Girl Scouts looking for volunteers to help out

Hohenfels Girl Scouts is now looking for volunteers for the next school year.

We are in need of adult volunteers for the following positions: event coordinator, publicity, cookie manager, hut manager, German/American liaison, and a Web site designer, as well as leaders for Brownie age level (first-third grade) and Cadette age level (sixth-eighth grade).

You don't have to have a daughter in Girl Scouts to make a difference in a girl's life! For more information, e-mail hohenfels_girlscouts@yahoo.com or Mary Fitter at CIV 09472-911-289.

Post speed limits reduced

The speed limit from Gate #1 along Patton drive to the Commissary turn at Linderberg Road is now 30 km per hour Monday through Friday during PT times (approximately 6-8 a.m.).

The signs will be changed from 50 km to 30 km before 6 a.m. and then be returned to 50 km after 8 a.m. However, the posted speed is always the one that will be enforced so pay attention to the speed limit signs regardless of the time of day.

The speed limit from the intersection of Patton Road and Linderberg Road (often referred to as the Commissary Road) through to the end of the Keltenwall Housing Area is now permanently 30 km per hour.

The speed limit from the Post Gym to ACP #4 (5 corners near Camp Albertshof) is now permanently 30 km per hour.

All members of the community are reminded to obey all traffic signs. Speed limits are clearly marked. Essentially, the entire cantonment area (except for the gate #2 road) will now be a 30 KM zone from 6-8 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Additionally, even though speeds have been reduced to 30 KM throughout the cantonment area, drivers are still required to slow to 10 MPH when passing troops running or marching on the road regardless of the time of day or posted speed limit.

Summer sporting camps set

Youth Sports Camps will begin Monday. Camps will be offered to youth that have just completed first-eighth grade.

For school age children (first-sixth grade) camps are: Monday-Aug. 10 - basketball/cheerleading, and Aug. 13-25 - bowling. Cost for camps (first-sixth grade): \$20.

Middle school (seventh and eighth grade) camps are: Monday-Aug. 10 - basketball/cheerleading, and Aug. 13-25 - baseball/softball. Cost for camps (seventh and eighth grade): \$10.

Register your youth at CLEOS, Bldg. 96. For more information on camps, call DSN 466-2488/2558.

Chaplain Happenings

■ Protestant Women of the Chapel:

Come “craft” with us! Bring your own portable craft (scrapbooking, quilting, cross-stitching, etc.) or learn a new one! Join us Tuesday, at the Hilltop Chapel Center from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Childcare is provided for children ages 6 weeks - 5 years. Older children may come along and work on their own craft projects. This event is sponsored by PWOC. POC is Gwen Eungard CIV 09492-601637.

■ Christ's Commandos (C2) is church just for kids. We meet in the Post Theater on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of the month, 10:45 a.m.- noon. We have skits, puppets, music, and games.



2007 U.S. Forces Europe

Men's and Women's Track and Field Championship

28 July

Hosted by
USAG Hohenfels
at the
Regensburg Sports Verein

Open to all U.S. ID cardholders 18 and over

For details contact:
Bill Craven
bill.craven1@us.army.mil
DSN 466-2868
Civilian 49 (0) 9472-83-2868



Ansbach Briefs

Golfers listen up!

The Garrisons public affairs office is currently accepting names for interested golfers in playing at the Lichtenau Golf Course. Those interested in passing the long summer days golfing, should call the USAG Ansbach PAO with their name, CMR address, work, home, and cell number, and their golf handicap. Golfing times are M-F 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. and weekends on a space available basis only.

The Golf Club Lichtenau has a special offer for U.S. Army personnel, 35 EURO for green fees (a 10 EURO discount) weekdays and 55 EURO on the weekends. The club offers a 19-hole-course only and is for experienced golfers. Golfers must attend in proper attire, blue jeans, shorts and T-Shirts are not permitted.

For more information and registration, call PAO at DSN 468-1600 or CIV (0981) 1831600.

Starting Aug. 1, Illesheim Clinic extends hours

Starting Aug. 1 the Illesheim health clinic will extend it's hours of operation. Operation hours will be Mon., Tue., Thur., and Fri. from 7.30 a.m. –noon and 1- 5 p.m. and Wed. from 7.30 a.m.-noon. Sick call hours are Mon.-Fri. from 7.40 - 9 a.m. For more information, call the Illesheim health clinic at DSN 467-4512 or CIV (09841) 83512.

Block party held Aug. 11

The Illesheim community features its annual block party Aug. 11 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Longbow Lounge, Storck Barracks. Community organizations will put their services on display while private organization will offer all sorts of food. In addition, the event will feature an inflatable obstacle course for children, limbo, balloon darts, ping pong toss, face painting a DJ and much more for children and adults alike. For more on the event call the community's area support team at DSN 467-4515 or CIV 09841-83515.

Services show off in showcase

Organizations and services from across the installation and community will set up booths to show what they can do for those who live and work within USAG Ansbach Aug. 25 from 10 a.m. -2 p.m. at Hangar 2 in Katterbach. The event includes games activities for children and adults alike. For more on the showcase, call Sarah Tipple at DSN 467-2064 or CIV 09802-832064/883.

Kantine breaks for summer

The German Kantine on Bismarck Kaserne will be closed for summer vacation Aug. 6-27. For more information, call the Katine at DSN 467-2101 or CIV 09802-832101.

Control your checkbook

Army Community Services offers a checkbook management class Aug. 7 at the Katterbach ACS classroom from 9 to 11 a.m. and in Illesheim, Aug. 28 from 9 to 11 a.m. The course teaches how to balance checkbooks and maintaining accurate records. For more information, call the Katterbach ACS at DSN 467-2883 or CIV 09802- 832883 or the Illesheim ACS at DSN 467-4555 or CIV 09841-83555.

CID announces lottery scam

Criminal Investigation Command Ansbach informs about lottery scams. Letters addressed from Euromillones Lottery Primitives S.S, Spain were sent to German residence addresses, of U.S. forces personnel informing recipients that they had won a Euro 615.810.00 Lottery. The sender claims the victim needs to pay a nominal fee in order to release the winnings and illicitly request personal and bank account information. CID advises against providing any payment, banking or credit information unless certain the source is legitimate. Providing personal and bank account information can result in the victim's bank account being drained and personal information sold on the black market. With legitimate lotteries, there are no fees of any kind. Any fees or taxes would be deducted from the lump sum before being transferred to winner.

Fore more information and to report scams, call CID at DSN 467-2845 or CIV 09802-832485.

Learn to sew on Mondays

Cobbled Corner Craft on Barton Barracks in Ansbach offers a sewing class every Monday from 6.30-8.30 p.m. Cost is \$ 12.50. Learn sewing techniques, measuring and cutting, trouble shooting a sewing machine, simple repairs and darning, and how to make a pattern. For more information, call DSN 468-7627 or CIV (0981) 183627.

School lunch applications now available at ACS

School lunch applications for the 2007-08 school year are now available. The applications can be picked up at Army Community Service, any USAG Ansbach Department of Defense Dependents school or from the school liaison officer's information board across from the community mail room boxes in Bldg. 5817.

Once completed, bring the application, along with a copy of the sponsor's orders, and the most recent leave and earnings statement, to your local ACS office.

For more information, call DSN 467-2883 or CIV 09802-83-2883 in Katterbach, or DSN 467-4555 or CIV 09841-83-4555 in Illesheim.

Earn chance to win prizes by completing MWR Top 10 list

USAG Ansbach Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Top 10 list is comprised of a selection of events and activities scheduled by various programs within MWR. Each month, MWR officials will highlight the "must do" activities for community members.

The list will include a variety of activities that promise to entertain, educate, challenge or relax people during the deployment timeframe. The events give people the chance to meet new people, take advantage of the local surroundings and culture, as well as pick up a hobby or learn something new. To make this list more exciting and challenging, MWR officials added a bit of competitiveness to the list. Starting in September, people who complete at least 50 percent of the activities on the list are eligible to enter a monthly drawing. Prizes will range from free trips to gift certificates and other great prizes.

Copies of the list are available at the Yellow Ribbon rooms on Katterbach Kaserne and Storck Barracks, bowling centers, ACS, fitness centers, arts and crafts, child enrollment, and child development centers.

To receive the Top 10 via e-mail or in your mailbox, just send an e-mail to ans-mwr@eur.army.mil.

Youth theatre workshop set

The Terrace Playhouse hosts a youth theatre workshop July 30 to Aug. 3 from 9 a.m. to noon for children ages 9-16 and 2-3:30 p.m. for children ages 5-8. The workshop focuses on the basic workings of the theatre, stage terminology, costume design, set design, age-appropriate Elizabethan history and culture, and elementary Shakespearean speech using "A Midsummer Night's Dream." The workshop culminates with a Medieval Banquet and a presentation of short scenes.

The playhouse is located in Bleidorn Housing. For more information, call DSN 468-7636 or CIV 0981-183-636.

PEP helps people get comfortable in Germany

The People Encouraging People program is designed to make people more comfortable in their surroundings here in Ansbach and Germany. The program is offered 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 27-28 in Katterbach, and 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 21-13 in Illesheim. PEP is open to all community members—whether they're new to the community or have been here for a while. For more information, call DSN 468-1550 or CIV 0981-183-1550.

New immunization guidelines set for schools

New immunization requirements were put into effect at the beginning of this past school year, said the Ansbach Middle/High School Nurse, Michele George. She said the Hepatitis A vaccine is now available but that parents need to ensure their children have the first dose administered by the start of next school year in order to attend. She said parents need to take their

children's immunization record to their local medical treatment facility for review to ensure that they can provide the school with an up-to-date copy no later than Aug. 27—the first day of the next school term.

Most students will only need their first dose of Hepatitis A administered as they should be up to date on all other immunizations. If they have already received their first dose and six months have passed since it was administered, the second dose should be administered prior to Aug. 27.

Also, for children who haven't had Chickenpox, the Center for Disease Control recommends that students who received one dose of Varicella vaccine prior to age 13 should now receive a second dose to provide immunity into adulthood. For more information, call George at DSN 467-2519 or CIV 09802-83-2519.

Vacation Bible School set

The USAG Ansbach chaplain's office hosts Vacation Bible School on Katterbach Kaserne and Storck Barracks in August.

The school will be held Aug. 6-10 at the Illesheim Chapel and Aug. 13-17 at the Katterbach Chapel.

For more information on Vacation Bible School, call John Edwards at DSN 467-2685 or CIV 09802-832-685.

Bamberg Briefs

Register now for VBS

Bamberg Community Vacation Bible School will be held Aug. 6-10 at the High School Gym and Annex from 9-11:45 a.m. daily.

Imagine finding yourself projected back to Israel in the first century. Smell the exotic foods, explore authentic traditions, dress up in biblical costumes and experience the Bible in Group's Holy Land Adventure "Galilee-by-the-Sea". VBS is open to children 4 years of age through those entering sixth grade for SY 07/08. Registration is available online at www.bamberg.army.mil Click on Chapel, then VBS in the upper right hand corner. Register early and be sure to not miss this exciting event.

For more information contact is Luke Granger at the Bamberg Chapel at DSN 469-8140.

Student 2 Student hosts welcome week Aug. 20-23

Are you new to Bamberg? Feeling anxious about your first day of school? All seventh-twelfth graders are invited to participate in the CYS Student 2 Student Welcome Week program Aug. 20 – 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This jam packed program will take you on a behind the scenes tour of your new school, on an underground tour of Bamberg, a trip to an amusement park, a high ropes course and more. No teachers, no parents – just the facts about Middle/High School from one student to another. Register at the CYS Central Registration and Enrollment office or call Kim Kozel at CIV 0951-300-7469.

Get certified to go fishing

Going fishing? Not without a license! IMCOM-E certified instructors are offering fishing license certification courses at Bamberg Warner Barracks. For more information contact Bambergfishing@eur.army.mil or call CIV 0951-300-9010.

Pizza Hut delivers on-post

Bamberg Pizza Hut now offers on-post deliveries. Delivery will available from 4 to 9 p.m. with a \$2 fee and \$15 minimum order. Call CIV 0951-297-3990 to place your order.

Never leave child in a car

Never leave your child in a car unattended. Leaving children alone within a car is a *neglectful action* and considered a form of child abuse and is in violation of the USAG Bamberg Command Child supervision policy. This includes leaving a child in the car when paying for gasoline at the shoppette or to pick up your mail at the CMR. To read the full policy go to the Bamberg home page at <http://www.bamberg.army.mil/policies/06-22.doc> and stay informed!

Swim Safe this summer

All ocean and sea beaches with a lifeguard on duty and all public and

private swimming pools are considered authorized areas to swim. A full list of authorized swim areas in Bamberg and the surrounding areas can be found online at www.bamberg.army.mil, under safety.

Going TDY or taking Leave?

As a reminder, please check mail daily! Do not use your mail box as a storage facility for your mail. Properly addressed parcels not claimed within 30 days will be returned to sender, so please be sure to pick them up or notify us if you'll be on leave or TDY.

If you are unable to pick up for an extended period of time (more than 5 days). Please fill out form **DA 2258** at the Consolidated Mail Room, to have some or all of your mail forwarded or held for a specified period.

Leave comments with ICE

Good news or bad news, we can take it! The Interactive Customer Evaluation is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Go to www.bamberg.army.mil, click on ICE and tell us how we are doing!

FFF opens to youth

Due to the ongoing renovations at the JFK Gym, Child and Youth Services will be temporarily offering fitness classes for CYS registered youth at the Freedom Fitness Facility, Mon. through Fri. from 4 to 6 p.m. A youth activities schedule will be posted on a bulletin board in the OASIS Teen Center and at the FFF.

Join coffee club and save

Join the coffee club at the Community Activity Center and buy 10 coffees, slushies or shakes and get one free!

Find phone numbers online

The Bamberg Army Community Service has current telephone directories available at the Relocation Readiness Office in Bldg. 7029 Stop by Mon. through Fri. from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and pick one up. The directory is also available to download at www.bamberg.army.mil

Submit information to PAO two weeks before publication

The Warner Weekly/Command Information Channel deadline for all submissions will now be two weeks prior to the desired publication/broadcast. This new policy for all announcements (including garrison closures and events) will be in effect starting with the Fri. Aug 3 edition.

The earlier deadline gives you more opportunity for getting the word out and ultimately more exposure for your activity or event. Please mind the deadline to ensure that your request gets fulfilled.

Private organizations wishing to make an announcement must be registered. Fundraising events must be pre-approved through the MWR Financial Management Division, located in Bldg. 7107.

Send requests for publication/broadcast to bambergpao@eur.army.mil or call DSN 469-2000 or CIV0951-300-2000.

Next P.E.P. class Aug. 13-17

Are you new to USAG Bamberg? If this is your first tour overseas, then PEP is a "must"! Get to know the garrison and the town of Bamberg by touring the city with the ACS PEP program. Learn how to use the public transportation system, how to shop and visit the Bamberg Klinikum. Free childcare is provided (space is limited). PEP is free and takes place Mon. Aug. 13 to Fri. Aug 17, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Call Bamberg ACS at CIV:0951-300-7777 for details.

Substance abuse training mandatory for DA civilians

Department of the Army civilians (AF and NAF) must complete a minimum of two hours of substance abuse prevention training annually. ASAP is offering courses to fulfill this requirement Aug. 2, 9-11 a.m.; Aug. 23, 1 -3 p.m.; and Sept. 13, 9-11 a.m. For more information call Darlene Copeland at DSN 469-7038.

Register for tackle football, soccer through Aug. 3

CYS Sports registration for tackle football and soccer is open through Aug. 3. Tackle football is open to ages 8 to 14 and cost \$84. Soccer is open to ages 3 to 15 and costs \$36. Register at CYS Central Registration, Bldg. 7340, or call DSN 469-8660 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., or call DSN 469-8641.

Schweinfurt Briefs

Housing office hours change

Customer Service at the Leighton Barracks Housing Office, will change effective Aug. 1. After this date, housing representatives will be available on Leighton Barracks by appointment only. To make an appointment, call Schweinfurt Housing Office, DSN 354-6448/6712 or CIV 09721-96-6448/6712.

All day teen summer stress buster takes place Aug. 3

"Chill & Kick the Heat" at the teen summer stress buster Aug. 3 from 9:30a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kessler Field. We'll have BBQ, sports like basketball and volleyball, an inflatable boxing ring, water-balloon toss, climbing wall, and the batting cages will be open as well. Three 30-minute classes will be held between 10:30 a.m. and noon on such topics as safe dating, goal setting, and money management.

YS and SKIES on the move

Leighton Youth Services and SKIES programs will be moving from Bldg. 77 to Bldg. 153. The first official day of business in Bldg. 153 will be Aug. 6. The new telephone number will be DSN 350-6828, or CIV 0931-889-6828. Hours will remain the same for both services, and SKIES class payments should still be tendered at Schweinfurt Central Registration or the Leighton Child Development Center.

Fall sports deadline Aug. 10

The deadline for registering your children for soccer, flag football, and cheerleading is Aug. 10. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services and have a current physical on file. Visit Central Registration in The Commons on Ledward Barracks or the Child Development Center on Leighton Barracks to register.

CAV call-in on AFN Monday

Members of the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry will call in Monday morning at 7 a.m. to speak with Sgt. Jonathan McDonald of AFN radio. Turn your dial to AM 1143 and hear the latest news about the Airborne Cavalry straight from the Soldiers' mouths.

Autism support group meets

A support group for those living with and autism, either in themselves or a family member, meets the last Friday of every month at the Ledward Army Community Service Center from 10 a.m. to noon. The next meeting will be this Friday. Come meet others who understand what you're going through, and learn more about available resources. Childcare is available with early registration. Call DSN 354-6933 for more information.

Bulk trash pick-up set

Bulk Trash pickups will be conducted Tuesday in Askren Manor, Yorktown Village, and all government leased housing. There are no pickups scheduled for Ledward Barracks, Conn Barracks, or any of the training areas. All residents must ensure that bulk trash items are outside by their trash collection point prior to 7 a.m. Tuesday. Do not put items out earlier than Monday. Only large items that normally do not fit into regular trash containers. No regular trash, recyclables or organic waste will be picked up. Any questions, call the SORT Coordinator Brad Posey, DSN 354-6201 or CIV 09721-96-6201.

SKIES programs available

The USAG Schweinfurt SKIES Unlimited program offers classes in Schweinfurt and Wuerzburg for many musical and sports pursuits. Guitar and piano lessons, ballet and soccer are just a few of the many options available each month. Classes begin the first week of the month. Call DSN 354-6460 or CIV 09721-96-6460 for more information.

YRR temporarily closed

Effective Monday, the Community Yellow Ribbon Room, Bldg. 230, on Ledward Barracks will be closed for construction. The facility will re-open in approximately four weeks. Patrons who utilize the YRR for Internet access may instead use the USO, library, MOS library, or Finney Recreation Center on Conn Barracks for computing needs during this period.

Augsburg

Germany’s second oldest city bursts at seams with history

by **BRANDON BEACH**
Stuttgart Citizen Editor

You can’t help but trip over history in Augsburg. The city dates back to 15 B.C. and bats second to Trier as the oldest in Germany.

With its vaults of Roman artifacts, Renaissance architecture and a university pulse, this Bavarian city beckons history junkies and club hoppers alike.

Located smack in the middle of the Romantische Strasse, Augsburg is an excellent jumping off point to exploring the famous 150-mile meandering road that starts at Fuesen in the south and ends at Wuerzburg with the eccentric Disneyland castle somewhere in between.

The city is an easy weekend trip from Stuttgart, with just a short 1.5-hour train ride east through the picturesque Schwabishe Alb countryside.

Stepping out of the train from the main station, follow Bahnhofstrasse to Koenigsplatz, where the city’s main bus terminal spiders out in all directions and the pedestrian shopping zone begins.

The heart of the city lies at the Rathausplatz (the cobble-stoned square in front of the town hall). Under the gaze of the Perlach Tower, throngs of people meet to strum guitars, thumb bongos, guzzle beer or just sit at the steps of the Augustus fountain and watch the commotion.

It’s not unusual to run into a pack of scarf-toting fussball fans on a Saturday afternoon celebrating a victory by the local FC Augsburg soccer club (promoted this year to the second league).

A five-minute walk from the main square is the Fuggerei. Set up by the city’s most famous merchant, Jakob Fugger, in 1521, it’s considered the first social housing district in the world for its time. Entry into the Fuggerei is at the main gate on Jakoberstrasse.

Current residents pay the same annual rent for a three-roomed apartment as they did some 400 years ago: 88 cents plus heating and three daily prayers to Mr. Fugger himself and the “Ave Maria.”

Entrance cost is 2 euro (that equates to two years rent) and includes a museum tour and a historical stroll through the landmark. Despite the enormous tourist traffic that literally tromps through their backyards, the

residents are friendly and docile. With rent at 88 cents, one can’t help but smile.

Near the Fuggerei on Lochgaesschenstrasse, take a break at the Drei Koeniginnen, a charming little beer garden attached to the Augusta brewery that dates back to 1488. It’s a typical Bavarian beer garden tucked under the shade of numerous chestnut trees. Enjoy a large weizen beer and an order of O’bazda (Camembert cheese spread served with bread) or kaesespaetzle (cheese noodles) to rejuvenate the legs.

Maximilianstrasse is a must for any weekend jaunt through the city. Located just south of the town square, the street widens to Champs Elysee-proportions.

When the sun shines, outdoor cafes and bars spill out onto the fringes. With black-leather riders roaring by on Harleys and hip hop teenagers blaring 50 Cent from low-ride Hondas, the street is a hot spot for local cruisers.

For more information stop by the city’s main tourist office which is located at Rathausplatz 8, or visit www.augsburg.de.

The office is open weekends 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Most staff can assist tourists in English.

Just arriving in Augsburg, pick up a free copy of the magazine “Neue Szene Augsburg” at any newsstand for tips on the city’s cultural happenings.



Photo by Brandon Beach

A resident of the Fuggerei in Augsburg sweeps her front step. Established in 1521, the landmark is considered the first social housing district for its time.



Photo by Brandon Beach

A whitewater kayaker rides the waves during a trick canoe competition at the Augsburger Eiskanal (ice canal). The landmark sporting facility played host to the 1972 Munich Olympics and is just one of many attractions that an adventurous tourist can make during a weekend visit to the Bavarian town of Augsburg.



Tourists should be sure to visit some of the breweries around Augsburg, as many of them have been around for approximately 600 years. These breweries also have traditional Bavarian food on the menu, such as kaesespaetzle, to go with your drink.

Photo by Brandon Beach



Two rivers, the Wertach and Lech Rivers, that join at Augsburg provide the opportunity to relax and view the city by boat.

Photo courtesy of Regio Augsburg Tourismus GmbH



Photo courtesy of Regio Augsburg Tourismus GmbH

The city of Augsburg, which is known as the second oldest city in Germany, has many historical buildings to visit, such as the Rathaus.

Flight path selection goes to the birds at Storck Barracks

Simonis helping protect endangered Red Kites

by **RONALD H. TOLAND JR.**
Bavarian News

Army aviation's selection of flight paths is going to the birds at Storck Barracks in Illesheim.

Airfield management at 12th Combat Aviation Brigade avoids flying in the vicinity to protect the nesting area of a family of endangered birds, according to deputy airfield manager Hans-Georg Simonis.

The Red Kites of Illesheim are indeed rare birds, explained Manfred Meyer, of the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach Environmental Management Division.

"The Red Kite is an endangered species in Germany. There are only two pairs breeding in the whole area of Middle Franconia," he said. "The Oberdachstetten training area has been the home for this bird for many years. Red Kites are decreasing in their three strongholds—Germany, Spain and France."

Protecting the birds is a key concern for Germany's naturists and government officials, Simonis said.

"This Red Kite is more of a solo project or an extra duty of mine and is now combined with

the enforcement of obeying all the Army rules and regulations regarding maneuver guidance," he said.

From February to September of every year, the large bird migrates and nests six kilometers outside the Illesheim Airfield to breed, said Meyer.

And the results are paying off as Simonis added that two Red Kite chicks recently hatched.

For his efforts in addressing the care of the Red Kite, Simonis was recently awarded a certificate of appreciation for outstanding environmental support from USAG Ansbach Commander Lt. Col. Tammy S. McKenna.

But it wasn't always this way, Simonis said. Without knowing about the nest, low-flying aircraft destroyed the bird's nest and its baby birds in late June 2004, he said.

The following July, Simonis was informed of this by the Bund Naturschutz (German equivalent of Greenpeace), resulting in a meeting with him, representatives of the BN, and the local forestry officer.

Simonis explained that this was when the aviation commander committed to avoiding flight in this area during the nesting season.

To do this, he works closely with the local BN office that monitors the birds' migration and reminds Simonis every year in February of the Red Kites' arrival.

"The BN says the bird must be protected and the U.S. military supports efforts to do this," he states. "Only the low-level routes are closed. We can and still use the higher altitude air-space levels."

"Mr. Simonis has for many years been a valuable asset in our environmental protection and education efforts," Meyer said. "He is a very dedicated and knowledgeable person when it comes to protection of the environment, and he is also well informed about the training areas in all respects of flora and fauna."

"His work in conjunction with the aviation brigade drastically increased not only the breeding success of the species, but the good relationship we enjoy with our local nature groups and host nation authorities," he said.

And while Simonis welcomes the recognition, his goal is not self-centered.

"The award is not a biggie," he said. "Doing for the bird and its species, the environment and what is right—that is what is important."



Family Readiness Group members have become increasingly diverse over the years as evidenced by the participation of Scott Seigel (pictured).

Today's FRG a diverse group, standing ready to assist Families

by **Sgt. BRANDON LITTLE**
12th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

Scott Seigel doesn't rank painting cute designs on clay bowls or sewing a quilt out of those sweaters that don't fit anymore high on his list of things to do.

Seigel, a former military intelligence officer, would also rather grill a few steaks and burgers than turn up the heat on a batch of cookies.

Although he has been out of the Army for some time, his military occupational specialty is now a self-titled 24/7 Papa.

This "MOS" includes being the husband of Capt. Virginia Seigel of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, home-schooling their two children, and being an active member of the unit's Family readiness group.

The 6-foot, 220-pound military veteran is certainly not your average FRG member, but the group has learned over the years to adapt their approach to cater to the diversity of its members.

There is a common misconception that unit Family readiness groups are made up of only wives, but in reality the groups are just as diverse as the military itself, said FRG leader Sara Hoff.

"It's not just a ladies' social club," Seigel said. "FRGs can be so many different things to so many people."

FRGs provide the assistance and resources

See **FRG** page 24

Summer hire program in full swing

Story and photo by **RONALD H. TOLAND JR.**
Bavarian News

With the official kickoff on June 25, this year's Summer Hire Program is in full swing in the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach community.

The program offers young family members, ages 14-22, employment for the summer paying participants a minimum \$5.14 per hour.

"It's designed to provide young people an opportunity to gain meaningful job experience, prepare for future educational and career goals, and support the Army mission," said John Britton, human resource specialist at the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center and Summer Hire coordinator for USAG Ansbach.

"Unfortunately some applications were submitted electronically only, without dropping the package of at CPAC, as per online instructions," he said. "The online application goes to our headquarter in Mannheim, who oversees and plans the program for all of USAREUR, but not to us locally."

"We don't get the online registrations and therefore can't consider them," said Britton. "That's why it is so important to physically drop off the application package."

Twenty-nine of the garrison's youth are

spending the summer break working throughout the garrison, for directorates, the Postal Support Battalion, or the 69th Signal Battalion.

"It's all worth it!" said Lykamille Cabigon, Family member of Spc. Remille Jose Cabigon of 412th Aviation Support Battalion. "I'm saving money for emergencies and future use like college."

Cabigon is a summer hire for USAG Ansbach's Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment and performs duties that include everything from landscaping to clerical tasks.

"Duty decisions depend on day-to-day priorities, activities, and other directives," explained Sgt. James Miller, Cabigon's current supervisor.

Liz Richardson—parent, and Family member—has two daughters working in the program, one at the A.C.S. and one at the Community Manager's Office.

"I take my girls in (to work) every morning," said Richardson. "I am glad they have something to do that they enjoy during the summer to keep them occupied, apply learned skills ... that sort of thing."

It also helps them save money for college," she said.



Lykamille Cabigon, one of 29 students in the Summer Hire Program at Ansbach, weeds out a concrete planter.

Garrison Spotlight

USAG Ansbach leadership recognizes employees for a job well done and excellent customer service in the Garrison Spotlight.

Anthony (Tony) Mackey, at the Recycling Yard on Storck Barracks in Illesheim, has provided outstanding customer service prompting positive customer comments from the Interactive Customer Evaluation (or ICE) system.

Mackey says he loves his job because he can be himself and he loves people. He wants to "help the community, mankind, and make recycling and life easy for everyone and anyone."

This type of attitude is what gained him recognition with the community as it earned support and trust from his supervisors and built confidence with the customer community as a whole.

"Tony does a very good job providing recycling information to the customer in a very friendly manner and helps them to dispose of recyclables in the right containers," says Jutta Seefried, USAG Ansbach environmental office and Mackey's supervisor.



Photo by by Olena Lytvyn-Batchelor

Moooo-re hay, please

Four year-old John Britton Jr. makes sure all cows get their share of hey during a field trip to a dairy farm in Eyb, Germany, July 10. As part of the Katterbach Child Development Center's summer program, nine of the CDC's kindergarten class visited the local farm to get a first-hand glimpse of (and feel for) farm life. In addition to feeding the cows, the children received a tour of the farm and got an up-close-and-personal view of the milking machines at work.

16th Sustainment Brigade activates

Story and photos by ANGELIKA LANTZ
21st Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

The day was as hot as it was historically significant for the 400 Soldiers participating in the 16th Sustainment Brigade activation ceremony July 16 at Warner Barracks parade field at U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg.

During the two-part ceremony, 16th SB Commander Col. Martin Pitts and Command Sgt. Maj. James Spencer first cased the colors of the “Onward with Support,” 7th Corps Support Group to signify the deactivation of the unit.

Next, the 16th SB’s colors were unfurled and placed alongside the American and German flags in the color guard formation to symbolize the brigade’s activation.

The new sustainment brigade, which falls under the command of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command headquartered in Kaiserslautern, is part of the Army’s transformation plan, conceived to bridge the past and the future.

“This transformation process takes us from

a legacy era with limited capabilities and a Cold War ethos, to a modular expeditionary era with more capabilities and a honed warrior ethos making us better equipped and prepared to answer our nation’s call,” said Pitts, who took command of the 16th SB after commanding the 7th CSG for the past year.

The 16th SB will be the only enduring brigade-sized logistics unit within the U.S. Army in Europe. As such the brigade faces a momentous challenge.

“We will not only retain all current logistics functions and responsibilities, but will assimilate additional services, like finance, medical and signal capabilities,” said Lt. Col. Russell Cole, the brigade’s deputy commander.

Additionally, the brigade’s mission will

change from USAREUR-focused support, to sustaining Army units world-wide, when deployed, Cole said.

This is where being within the fold of the 21st TSC has some distinct advantages. “It provides us with the ability to remain expeditionary in nature, because of the 21st TSC’s ownership of the Theater Logistics Support Center Europe,” Cole said. For a forward-deploying organization, it will be invaluable to be partnered with a unit that maintains a solid theater sustainment and support base.

However, despite the increased capability and function, the 16th SB’s commitment, concern, and compassion for the Soldiers and their Families will remain constant, said Pitts.



16th SB Commander Col. Martin B. Pitts and 16th SB Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer case the 7th Corps Support Group colors during the activation ceremony for the 16th SB held at the Warner Barracks parade field July 16.



The 16th Sustainment Brigade color guard flies the brigade’s newly unfurled colors during the 16th SB activation ceremony at the Warner Barracks parade field July 16.

BRIEFS

‘Charlotte’s Web’ at Stable Theater this weekend

E.B. White’s classic tale - now a hit movie - is brought to life on stage at the Stable Theater July 25 - 29. A humble pig saved from the butcher’s axe by a clever spider, Charlotte, inspires the most famous supernatural public relations campaign in American history.

Wed, Thur., Fri., and Sat. performances of Charlotte’s Web are at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday show is at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$7 for kids 3-12/ students, E4 and below; \$25 Family card, \$20 family card for E5 and below.

Contact Jack Austin for more info at DSN 469-8647.

Hear Bamberg Soldiers on AFN 1143 on Mondays

Soldiers in the 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team in Afghanistan will be calling into AFN every Monday during the 7 a.m. hour to tell their stories.

Calls from the 1-91 CAV, 4-319 AFAR, 173d STB and the 173d BSB Soldiers will be aired on AFN Franconia, AM station 1143 in Bamberg.

ETSing? Attend next pre-separation briefing

Are you ETSing or chaptering out of the military within the next 6 months to 1 year? Then sign-up to attend a mandatory pre-separation briefing the last Tuesday of every month. The next briefing will be Tuesday.

Within six months of ETSing, orders are ready! The Bamberg Transition Center is located in Bldg 7029 Rm. 101.

For more information contact Stephen Hatcher at DSN469-7966 .

ODR August trips

Take a trip this August with Bamberg Outdoor Recreation. Go Kayaking on the Main River Aug. 4 & 18 (\$5), take the famous Tour Under Bamberg Aug. 9 (\$20), take a trip to Europa Park on Aug. 11 (\$10), visit the Munich Deutsches Museum on Aug. 18 (\$10), or the medieval town of Rothenburg od der Tauber on Aug. 25 (\$10), or join a Family Canoe Day on Aug. 31 (\$5) per person.

Trips fill up quickly, so reserve your seat now. Contact the CAC for more info at DSN 469-8659.

CYS camps available!

Kids and teens can get their fill of action and adventure one week at a time at summer camp! School Age Services is offering a variety of “Fun in the Summer Sun” camps for grades K-5. Contact Patrice Turner-Lapp at 0951-300-8698 for more information.

The CYS Middle School Teen Program, is offering week long camps for kids ages 6 to 12. There’s something for everyone. Download a copy of the CYS Summer Camp Program 2007 at www.bamberg.army.mil and register for a week or two today! Contact 0951-300-8641 for more information.

Register for Girl Scouts’ Twilight Camp

The Bamberg Girl Scouts will be hosting Twilight Camp Aug. 20 to 23 from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. The camp is open to girls of all ages and will be held at Engineer Lake.

Cost is \$35 for registered Girl Scouts and \$45 for new Girl Scouts. Register now through Aug 1 by calling Patty Sahli at CIV 0951-297-3679 or CIV 0162-296-6720 or e-mail bamberggirlscouts@gmail.com for more information.

Contact Jack Austin for more info at DSN 469-8647.

Golf Battery lifeline of the battalion in Afghanistan

Paratroopers helping increase morale, safety of troops in outlying forward operating bases

Story and photo by Spc. HENRY SELZER
173rd ABCT Public Affairs

Though it may not be the most glamorous job, paratroopers of Golf Battery, 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, work hard nonetheless, at Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam, Afghanistan, logistically supporting fellow Soldiers.

“We basically act as a lifeline to the companies of our battalion, delivering supplies by any means necessary to make sure the job gets done,” said Army Capt. Jonathan Beck, 29, of Oswego, N.Y., Golf Company commander.

The paratroopers of Golf Battery help increase the morale and safety of those paratroopers living in the outlying FOBs by delivering Hesco barriers, ice water, and sports drinks.

Paratroopers also conduct combat logistic patrols to the battalion’s observation posts and FOBs, delivering ammunition, maintenance repair parts, and other supplies.

Though it is only approximately 35 kilometers from FOB Mehtar Lam to FOB Kalagush, the almost three-hour convoy is quite a rough ride for these Soldiers, navigating around tight curves in the road along steep cliffs and ravines. Despite the bumpy ride, the Soldiers have learned how significant CLP’s are to those receiving the supplies.

“If it wasn’t for these Soldiers, the outlying FOBs would not be able to get the necessities they need to complete their mission properly,” said Army 1st Sgt. George Lee, of Christiansburg, Va.



Two Soldiers of Alpha Battery, 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment download supplies delivered to Forward Operating Base Kalagush in Afghanistan June 28.

A healthy partnership

Lt. Col. Gary Rosenberg, U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg commander, welcomes some 200 German medical practitioners at Warner Barracks July 11. “This is a great opportunity to thank our German practitioners for the excellent care they provide to our Families and Soldiers,” Rosenberg said. He also commended the patient liaison officers for their outstanding work. The annual German-American picnic was organized and hosted by the Bamberg Health Clinic.

Photo by Renate Bohlen



Dagger BCT, community honors its fallen Soldiers during ceremonies

by MARK HEETER
Bavarian News

The Dagger Brigade Combat Team and Schweinfurt military community gathered at two memorial services earlier this month to honor six Soldiers killed recently in Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Michael A. Bechert, 24, died June 14 in San Antonio of wounds suffered when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device May 30 in Baghdad, Iraq. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment.

Sgt. Alphonso J. Montenegro II, 22, Sgt. Ryan M. Wood, 22, Spc. Daniel J. Agami, 25, Spc. Anthony D. Hebert, 19, and Spc. Thomas R. Leemhuis, 23, died June 21 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an IED detonated near their vehicle. All were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment.

‘As tough as they come’

Staff Sgt. Michael Bechert was on his third deployment with the Vanguards, having joined the unit following one-station unit training as an infantryman.

“Staff Sgt. Bechert was as tough as they come,” said Chaplain (Col.) James Brown, Task Force Guardian chaplain.

“He was driven to be a leader, so the Soldiers around him were made stronger and better,” Brown said of Bechert.

“He had an overwhelming desire to be the best at anything he could do,” said Staff Sgt. Matthew Colleary, reading the remarks that 1st Lt. Forrest Ryan gave earlier in Iraq.

Ryan described how the relationship developed between the platoon leader and squad leader.

“He eventually became a person I could tell anything to,” Ryan said.

Three fellow Vanguards died earlier from wounds suffered in the same attack that claimed Bechert, whose fight took him to Brooke Army Medical Center.

“We knew he gave his all and, most importantly, found peace with his brothers,” said Staff Sgt. Luis Castro,

relaying the remarks of Capt. David Diaz, the Company C commander as he referred to Cpl. James Lundin, Sgt. Bacilio Cuellar, and Cpl. Joshua Moore.

Bechert is survived by his wife, Daniela and son, Brandon; his father, Michael; sister, Teri; and grandparents, George and Doris Bechert.

‘Gatekeeper of the Outlaws’

Anyone that wanted into the Outlaw platoon had to go through Sgt. Alphonso Montenegro Jr.

“Monte was one of the most borderline disrespectful Soldiers I ever met,” said Staff Sgt. Raja Richardson, conveying the remarks of Staff Sgt. John Gregory. “It was never disrespect, though. He just stood up for what he believed in.”

Monte stepped up to the plate when the platoon needed a team leader beginning in the last Grafenwoehr rotation, according to Gregory. “He took his new team and really showed them his mettle when it came down to the nitty gritty of his job,” he said.

“Once you earned a spot in his mind, you had earned a spot in the Outlaws,” Gregory said.

Montenegro, who joined the Blue Spaders in November 2003, was a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

“You could tell that Monte loved being a small-team leader by the way he carried himself and performed his duties,” said Capt. Jacob White, as he read the earlier remarks of Capt. Cecil Strickland, the Company C commander, recalling Montenegro’s sarcastic sense of humor and “sheepish grin.”

Montenegro is survived by his mother, Sandra; sister, Jennifer; and two brothers, Pfc. Christian Montenegro and Jason Dominguez.

‘And they all loved him’

A member of “Charlie Rock” since November 2002, Sgt. Ryan Wood, along with many others in his platoon, saw heavy combat in the fall of 2006.

“Allow me to emphasize Sgt.

Wood’s fearless leadership,” said Richardson as he read remarks from Capt. Ryan Maravilla’s eulogy at the memorial service in Iraq.

“He led countless combat patrols through the most dangerous streets of Baghdad,” Maravilla said, describing several contacts with the enemy.

Still, Wood was remembered most as a noncommissioned officer who took great pride in training Soldiers.

“Whether he wanted to be or not, Sgt. Wood was a natural leader,” he said. “Every one of his Bradley drivers and gunners greatly improved in skill under his tutelage. And they all loved him.”

“Inside, Ryan was a great man – perhaps small in stature but huge in heart and soul,” Strickland said of his fallen Soldier, whom he also recalled as a fine artist.

“If you paid attention, you could see his tender side, as he often let that out in some of his drawings,” Strickland said.

Wood is survived by his mother and stepfather, Renee and Scott Vincent; his father, James; his three sisters, Candice Bunce, Jennifer Campbell, and Stephanie Wood; and his brother, Scott Vincent Jr.

‘The Hebrew Hammer’

Intensely proud of his Jewish heritage, Spc. Daniel Agami made every effort to observe his religious traditions while deployed and was most intent on being at home with his Family during Passover.

“I have met very few people that have pride in who they are that could match Danny,” said Richardson, relaying remarks from Staff Sgt. Evan Johnson.

“He would joke around about it, calling himself the ‘Hebrew Hammer’ or ‘GI Jew... The Real American Hebrew,’” Johnson said, referring to him as “fiercely proud that that was his heritage.”

Johnson recalled the time that his laundry got lost in Iraq and returned from a mission to find a stack of fresh shirts and socks on his bunk.

“It took me two days to find out that Danny had put them there after overhearing what had happened with my laundry,” he said. He would give you anything—except the Teddy bear that Gina had given him, Johnson said.

One who wanted to pull his friends along for the ride and a good time, Agami was recalled as the All-American kid by Strickland.

“I honestly can’t recall when he didn’t have a smile on his face when he was with his friends,” Strickland said.

Agami is survived by his parents, Itzhak and Beth; his brother, Ilan; and his sister, Shaina.

To earn the ‘Hebert Tab’

Spc. Anthony Hebert didn’t have a Ranger or Special Forces Tab. So he made up the Hebert Tab.

“To earn this tab, you had to do something either really funny or say something that would make him laugh,” said Sgt. DeQuinn Nickerson, who read the previously prepared remarks of Pfc. Marcus Leslie, himself a bearer of the Hebert Tab.

“He was even thinking of who was worthy of the dual Hebert tabs for both shoulders,” Leslie said of the perpetual funnyman Hebert.

“Tony always seemed to enjoy life, because he didn’t take it too seriously,” Strickland said. “It was his humor, wisecracks, and good-humored ribbings that helped keep the platoon’s spirits up, in spite of all the drama that has taken place over the past eleven months.”

Recalling the brand of humor that Hebert helped spread to his fellow crew members, Leslie explained a

competition in which they had to count who had been hit by the most IEDs. He who would be killed would be the end-of-the-game winner.

“Unfortunately, they all tied for first and are going to have to share those (bragging) rights up in heaven now,” Leslie said.

Hebert is survived by his parents, Robert and Laurie, and his sister, Tiffany.

‘My friend and my brother’

Spc. Thomas Leemhuis, 22 when he enlisted in the Army, was a little more mature than some other new recruits, according to Strickland.

“You could always count on him to get the job done, no matter what he had to do,” he said, noting that Leemhuis’ upbringing as a Native American in Oklahoma made him who he was.

“Leemhuis was a hard-working man, proud of his native roots and never complaining,” Strickland said. To others, like Pfc. Rodger Arnold, he was more than that.

“He was my friend and brother,” Nickerson said, reading Arnold’s remarks.

Arnold was on the charge of quarters desk the day Leemhuis arrived at Charlie Rock and gave him the key to his new room. “From that point on, Leemhuis and I were the best of friends,” he said, adding that Leemhuis helped him through the grief of losing their leader Staff Sgt. Garth Sizemore last year.

Arnold looked back on their brief but important friendship.

“I helped Leemhuis unpack in Germany. I helped him pack his household goods before we deployed. And I helped pack his personal effects to be mailed to his mother for the last time,” he said.

Leemhuis is survived by his mother, Patricia Leemhuis; his father, Paul Whitehorn; his three sisters, Stephanie Leemhuis, Renee Whitehorn, and Dream Cox; and his brother, Paul Leemhuis.



Montenegro



Wood



Bechert



Agami



Hebert



Leemhuis

Don’t miss Aug. 10 fall sports registration deadline

Story and photo by
KIMBERLY GEARHART
Bavarian News

The weather is warm, and summer seems to have finally come to Schweinfurt. The kids are outside getting sunburns, and parents are busy trying to stay cool in the shade.

But now is also the time to start thinking about fall—fall sports, that is.

If your children are interested in playing soccer or flag football, or trying their pom-poms at cheerleading, now is the time to sign up.

This year, Youth Sports will register children ages 3 and up for fall soccer in both Schweinfurt and Wuerzburg. Flag football and cheerleading are geared for 10-12 year olds.

In order to participate, children must be registered with Child and Youth Services and have a current sports physical on file.

Register in person at Ledward Central Registration, in The Commons, or on Leighton Barracks in the Child Development Center.

Fall sports registration ends Aug. 10.

Parents who aren’t “up” on sports knowledge will be offered an opportunity to attend “Soccer 101” and other fall-sports seminars in late August, part of the Youth Sports effort to educate families, rather than just children, about sports activities.



Kohilani Taylor (right) fights to keep the ball away from Jordan Westbrook during a soccer camp scrimmage on Askren Manor. Soccer is one of the fall sports being offered this year.

Schweinfurt youth have ‘Fun on the Run’

by KIMBERLY GEARHART
Bavarian News

Sometimes, getting the word out about sports clinics, and then getting the people in to participate can be a challenge.

Daniel Jones, Child and Youth Services Sports and Fitness Director, has a solution.

“If you can’t bring the kids into the camp, you take the camp out to the kids,” he said.

In an effort to reach more of the youth community, Jones and other Youth Sports employees have implemented a Fun on the Run program. Vans loaded with sports gear and games will drive through the housing areas, in search of groups of kids playing.

“Then we’ll break out the toys, and play,” Jones said.

The program, long considered, is being implemented in Schweinfurt because, as Jones points out, it’s a necessity.

Youth Sports programs can suffer from lack of participation, sometimes simply because parents do not know about the opportunities, and sometimes because there just isn’t enough time in the day to get to summer camp and soccer camp, the grocery store, and doctor’s appointments.

“But this only takes an hour a day,” said Jones.

Youth Sports employees will be in the housing areas afternoons or evenings when the weather is nice, searching for groups of kids to entertain. Participating adults will be Youth Sports employees, who will have passed background checks and have identification cards

as well.

“You don’t want kids playing with anyone that pulls up in a van, so we want everyone to know who we are, what we’re doing, and that we’re offering a safe alternative for the kids,” Jones said.

The program is still in a trial phase, but if all goes well, look for Fun on the Run to continue next year as well.



Photo courtesy of Youth Services

Garrison youth can take advantage of Youth Sports equipment and activities in the housing areas as part of a mobile recreation program.

Q&A

How has the *Internet* affected *your life* and how do you use it most?



Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Alich
“... For work, it has absolutely tripled the workload. ... I was also able to enjoy video conferences with my family ... when I was deployed.”

Neal Ferguson
“I use it for sports and news information, mostly. I prefer to write a letter or make a phone call than e-mail.”



Evelin Geiselsoder
“I have no computer, no Internet. I know nothing about that. I have other hobbies and interests.”

Jennifer Filmore
“It is way better. You can do everything: shop, use online banking, talk to family. It makes life way easier.”



Sgt. Steve McDonald
“Primarily for entertainment purposes. It gives me the ability to write e-mails back and forth to the U.S. for my kids.”

Charles Grandison
“It is easier to look up topics and information. ... I do not use e-mail at home, though. I am a letter man.”



1st Lt. John Smith
“The modern military requires leaders at all levels to be attached to it, or at the hip with a Blackberry. ... I could be dedicating that time to caring for (Soldiers or unit business).”

Jeffrey Mitchell
“It’s a good way to obtain and share information, eliminates a lot of unnecessary paperwork, and it helps getting the bills paid faster, too!”



Postcards from The Front

“Postcards from the Front” are provided courtesy of the 173d ABCT Public Affairs Office downrange. Check back regularly to see if your Soldier is featured sending a message home to you! Postcards will also be broadcast on the Bamberg Command Information Channel (Channel 1 in housing).



I just wanted to say hi to my wife! I love you mama, I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for you! Take good care of the kids. Thanks for the support and standing by me through this.

Pfc. Cole Dewald
Alpha Battery, 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment



I would like to say hello to my wife and daughter, Janeth and Allison. I love you and miss you. I will be home before you know it. God bless you and continue to pray for all of us over here.

Sgt. Daniel Beckett
Alpha Battery, 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment



I would like to say hello to my wife Lacy and all my family. I'd like to thank you all for your love and support, and I'll see you guys on leave.

Pfc. Aaron Favela
Alpha Battery, 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment

Club Beyond enjoys Beach Break in Italy

Story and photo by SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

Club Beyond held a week long camp for 328 middle-schoolers and 388 high-schoolers at Camp Darby, Italy, during its June Beach Break. A total of 43 students from the Schweinfurt and Wuerzburg communities joined in the fun and activities all focused on learning about Jesus Christ.

“We take a lot of students that might not think about faith ordinarily and present (the gospel) in a really fun and non-threatening way,” said Ellie Bailey, community director of the Schweinfurt Club Beyond.

The high school and middle school students were assigned separate five-day camps but all experienced the same program. Each day consisted of outings to such cities as Lucca and Pisa where students participated in a photo scavenger hunt.

The hunt encouraged the students to interact with the culture instead of watching it from the sidelines like a spectator, said Chad Ramskugler, a club volunteer leader.

Another day trip brought the groups to Cinque Terra where hiking gave way to more bonding time.

“The atmosphere at Cinque Terra was amazing. When we got there, we knew we were

really in Italy,” said Katie Richardson, two-time participant in the high school camp. Richardson will be entering her junior year in the fall.

Visiting a water park was also included on the schedule of daytime activities.

At night, Camp Darby served as home-away-from-home where students and leaders slept in tents, ate, played games, and attended evening programs.

After dinner, the small groups and their leaders gathered for Tent Talk to discuss faith issues.

“There’s a hole in our lives that we can never fix without God,” said Haile Baker.

Baker begins eighth grade in the fall, and this was her first time attending Beach Break.

“These kids were getting real deep in their questions— (topics) that some adults don’t even want to go into,” said Ramskugler.

“I really came out of my shell with God and learned more about him and became more committed,” said Austin Eubanks, who will be start eighth grade at Schweinfurt Middle School in the fall.

Not only is Beach Break a fun and spiritually uplifting time, the camp also creates a springboard for deeper relationships for next year, said Bailey, as the students begin or continue to attend Club Beyond meetings throughout the school year.



Club Beyond members and volunteers jump off a rock wall into the Gulf of Poets in Cinque Terre, Italy, last month.

Arts and Crafts Center offering free instructional classes

by SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

It’s hot outside. And when it’s not, it’s raining. What is there to do during these summer months while school is out and there’s no air conditioning to be found?

The Schweinfurt Arts and Crafts Center has gotten creative with their involvement in the Army Community Services’ “I Can Do It” success series.

Each Friday a free instructional class, materials included, teaches participants how to make a new craft. And the crafts are simple enough for school-aged kids to learn as well.

“It was a slow start, but now that the word has gotten out, a lot of people are coming,” said Nikki Gagliardo, an employee at the center.

Last Friday, 20 adults and children looked on as Gagliardo taught how to make Fimo beads. She demonstrated how each clay bead could be made with a variety of colors and any creativity one could muster up.

When finished with the decorating, a tiny hole was made with a needle, and then the beads were baked in an oven. The finished beads could be strung to make a necklace, unlike any that could be bought in a store.

“This is wonderful. It gives us something to do. And these are Christmas presents for Family

members,” said Laura Leiter, Family member of 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry and participant in the Fimo bead craft.

These free craft demonstrations have been publicized as beginning at 1 p.m. each Friday, said Gagliardo, but she emphasized that the studio will do the craft until 5 p.m. with a second demonstration at 3 p.m. in order to split up the crowds.

Participants learned how to make Sunbonnet Sue lace ups last week and will make candles Friday.

More exciting crafts are to come each Friday through September, so come beat the heat in a creative way.

FRG not ladies social group, membership continuing to evolve

Continued From Page 19

families need so that Soldiers can focus fully on their missions, said FRG leader Connie Koch.

“The FRG is not meant to be a support group,” said member Laurie Wooten. “It is designed to empower families and give them a sense of independence.”

“A lot of the ‘war fighters’ don’t understand that if we’ve got something back here that creates stability and structure, then they don’t have to worry about their Family being in a foreign country (where) they don’t know

anybody and can’t speak the language,” Seigel said.

“Being in Germany, and especially with all the deployments, Families may feel secluded, and they need information,” Wooten said. “That’s why the FRG is so important.”

Even though it’s a topic no one wants to discuss, unit family readiness groups also provide help with casualty assistance.

“We’ve got a network to support each other when bad things happen,” Seigel said.

“Families may need something to fall back on when something tragic happens to a loved

one, and we will try and provide that,” Wooten said.

FRGs can also be good way for Family members to address issue or concerns to a Soldier’s chain of command, Seigel said.

“Even if you have had a bad experience with a FRG in the past, you should at least give your FRG a chance before you judge it,” Wooten said.

“The only way to help improve your unit FRG is to tell them what you like or dislike,” Hoff said. “Communication has to be a two-way street—we don’t know exactly what a Family member needs unless they tell us.”

Smaller German weddings preceded by larger celebrations steeped in tradition

by MARTINA BIAS
Bavarian News Food & Culture Columnist

A few years ago, “Traumhochzeit” (dream wedding) was a very popular Saturday evening show in Germany. One could apply for the show by suggesting a particular unusual or romantic way of proposing to one’s future mate. The show would then help stage the proposal and film it. Surprisingly for most Americans, it often was the woman who did the proposing. You can chalk that up to emancipation or simply to the fact that they were tired of waiting to be asked. Many of the couples had been together for years, some even

had children together. When a German couple gets engaged, both the man and the women wear an engagement ring on the ring finger of the left hand. German wedding rings are worn on the right hand. So to Germans, all Americans look like they are eternally engaged because they wear their rings on the left hand. For some Germans, the engagement warrants a celebration with family and friends, others see it simply as a promise to each other. Until a few years ago, it was necessary to publish an “Aufgebot” before you could get married. This meant going to the local town hall and filling out paperwork, which would result in a public notice. The Aufgebot would be posted

for several weeks on a bulletin board outside the registry office, informing the general public of your intention to marry. This way anybody opposing the union could come forward before it was legalized. This practice is similar to the pastor’s phrase during an American wedding: “Whoever has reason to believe that this man and this woman should not be united in holy matrimony, speak now of forever hold your peace.” Presently, an Aufgebot is not required, but there is still plenty of paperwork to be filled out. Some of the information solicited by the registry office is how often you have been married and your sexual orientation. They even ask if you are

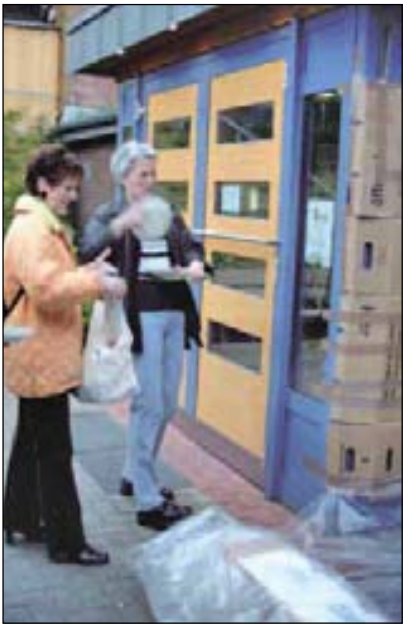
a member of the U.S. Armed Forces. An additional benefit of the old-fashioned Aufgebot was that it informed people about who was getting married and when so they could buy presents and drop them off at the bride’s home. Germans do not only buy a presents for couples who invite them to their wedding, but just about everyone they are acquainted with. For example, when I got married, we received a present from every family in our village, as well as from many regular customers of my parent’s Gasthaus, and even from local companies my parents bought supplies from. Now it is very important for the couple to keep track of all who gave them a gift, as they are expected to deliver a “thank you” in the form of either a plate of assorted cakes and pastries, or a small of wine or champagne to each family of well-wishers shortly after the wedding.

With my mother making up plates and my father driving in a separate car, it still took my new husband and I two days to deliver all our “thank-you cake plates” after the wedding. Unfortunately, someone in our family had accepted a gift on our behalf and neglected to write down who it came from. We ended up thinking that they were the only family in the village who had not cared enough to send a present and they thought we were too rude and cheap to send them a thank-you.

This misunderstanding was not resolved until several years later when I helped my parents deliver thank-you-plates after their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary to this family and was asked whether I had not liked their wedding gift to me. We ended up having a good laugh about the mix-up, but since most Germans are very concerned with tradition and the connected “good manners,” incidents like this can lead to decades-long misunderstandings. Germans generally have smaller wedding celebrations with only family and close friends invited. Therefore, a big party called a “Polterabend” usually takes place on the Thursday before the wedding (to give everyone a chance to recuperate on Friday – some couples even hold it a week before the wedding for this reason). Polterabend translates to “noisy evening,” and a noisy occasion it is indeed. No formal invitations go out; it is pretty much word-of-mouth that spreads the location and anybody can come. It starts in the late afternoon at either the bride’s parent’s home or the couple’s residence if they already live together. The custom is that everybody brings old dishes or glasses and smashes them on the ground in front of the door. This tradition is supposed to bring the happy couple good luck. Real jokesters, however, will arrive with a whole truck load full, because they know that the bride and groom have to clean it all up (as an exercise of working together) before they can join the party. Afterwards, a meal like Bratwurst and Sauerkraut, pea or gulasch soup, or a roasted pig is offered to the party goes along with an open bar (hence a day - or week - for recovery). Often, dancing is part of the celebration as soon as the couple arrives and opens with the first dance of the night. The cost for this blow-out is either covered by the groom’s parents or the couple themselves.



The bride and groom must clean up the broken dishes, courtesy of their guests, before joining the party during Germany’s traditional Polterabend, translated “noisy evening.”



Courtesy photos

Use fresh summer fruits to create a refreshing drink

by MARTINA BIAS
Bavarian News Food & Culture Columnist

Bowle is a favorite German party drink all year long, but especially in the summer time when fresh fruits are abundant. Bowle can best be described as an alcoholic punch that can be made of wine, champagne, sugar, and fruit or spices. Many versions add a little extra pizzazz by marinating the fruit in rum, cognac or other spirits with high alcohol content. To make the mix less potent, you can substitute red or white grape juice for the wine and Mineralwasser (German club soda) or lemon-lime soda for the champagne. The sweetness of the wine, the champagne and the fruit is directly related to the amount of sugar you might want to use. If your Bowle turns out too sweet or alcohol-heavy, you can lighten it by adding club soda until the taste you desire is achieved. My father would always create a special bowle when he anticipated a long night of celebrating and socializing with friends.



The strawberries and sugar make this punch very sweet.

As kids, we longed to taste the juicy pieces of fruit, but my mother did not approve because my father would always use one of his “secret ingredients” to marinate them in. According to my father, rum goes well with pineapple, while cherries, raspberries or plums taste extra good when you use some of the corresponding German “Schnaps”, like Kirschwasser (literally:cherry water), Himbeergeist (literally: raspberry ghost) or Pflaumenlikoer (plum liqueur). Be aware, however, that the extra addition of alcohol can cause a “heavy” head the next day if not consumed in moderation. As with all alcoholic drinks, make arrangements for a designated driver before you indulge. You can prepare your Bowle ahead of time (up to a day or two, in fact) to the point just before you add the champagne. This last step is not recommended until you are ready to serve it to your guests. One of my father’s favorite recipes follows. Feel free to change the choice of fruit to your liking. During the winter months, my father substitutes canned fruit cocktail with equally tasty results. I also included a recipe made with red wine for a nice change of pace. So bring out the old punch bowl and stir up a tasty German Bowle for your next party.

Prost!

Franz’s Special Bowle
1 quart of sliced, fresh strawberries (or 2 cans of

canned fruit of your choice, undrained)
12 Tbs. sugar
¼ cup cognac, or more as desired
24 oz white wine
24 oz Mineralwasser (or club soda)
24 oz champagne
Combine fruit, sugar and cognac in a punch bowl and let sit at room temperature overnight. Add white wine and Mineralwasser (or club soda). Just before serving, add champagne.
Yield: about 20 servings

Sommer Bowle
1 fresh pineapple (about 1 pound)
1 ripe mango
2 kiwis
2 limes
1 quart of (blood) orange juice
3 cups pineapple juice
1 quart of a fruity red wine

Peel pineapple; quarter and remove the tough inner trunk. Peel mango, cut in half and remove pit. Peel kiwi. Cut all fruit into bite-size pieces. Slice limes. Combine juices and wine in a punch bole. Add fruit. Refrigerate for about an hour.
Yield: 12 cups
Tip! Give some sparkle to this Bowle by adding some champagne or club soda just prior to serving. Substituting fresh strawberries and lychees for the mango and kiwi is another palate- pleasing combination.



Courtesy photos

Bowle is a tasty punch made with fruit, wine, and champagne.

Paintball course offers chance to learn, de-stress

Story and photo by **KIMBERLYGEARHART**
Bavarian News

Being the one left behind during a deployment is stressful. How you deal with that stress determines how well you deal with your spouse's absence.

The U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt Army Community Services knows that finding creative, fun, and constructive ways to relieve stress can be difficult on your own, so they have stepped in with the "I Can Do It" series of classes.

Family members can sign up and take classes in basic auto repair, bowling, and even paintball.

A few family members took advantage of the break in the rain July 10 to head out to the Conn Paintball field to try their hand with a paintball marker.

"We're going to teach them how to hold a marker, and fire, and to be safe while they have fun on the field," said Holger "Stoney" Steinmueller, a volunteer instructor on the field, whose day job as a USAG Schweinfurt firefighter occasionally leaves him a window of time to add to his 15 years of paintball experience.

"It's all about being safe, having fun, and just keep moving," said Keister Royster, recreation assistant, after outfitting participants with markers and masks.

Family members were walked through basic safety practices, and then taught how to hold the marker and maneuver around the field.

Jessica Romero, whose husband is deployed with 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, and her son



Holger Steinmueller (left) monitors Jennifer Haller's progress on a shoot and move lesson during an 'I Can Do It' paintball clinic.

Adrian came out to give paintball a try for the first time.

"He likes to do things almost like dad does," Romero said, indicating that Adrian was interested in the somewhat military aspect of paintball.

Other participants were there for themselves, taking advantage of a chance to learn something

new.

"It's so important to get out and experience new things. The Army is so good about creating these kinds of opportunities; it's exciting," said Jessica Haller, Family member with 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry.

Haller's son, Corbin, was too young to participate, but he watched Haller from the

sidelines.

Use of the paintball field is free every Thursday from 1 to 5 p.m., part of the garrison-wide effort to offer fun and stress-relieving activities for Families in the community.

For more information about paintballing or field use, call DSN 353-8080 or CIV 09721-96-8080.

Lady Falcons land three on all-tournament soccer team

by **KATIE COWART**
Assistant Editor

The Vilseck Lady Falcons soccer team was viewed by other DoDDS schools to be the underdog this past season. That is, until they came back to win the Division II European championship and had three players named to the all-tournament teams: recent Vilseck High School graduate Cathy DelaRosa, junior Tamaria Hollis, and junior Shamya Coleman.

"A lot of schools don't think of Vilseck as a team to look out for," Hollis said. "You don't hear about Division II and what they can bring to the table."

The team, made up of four seniors and mostly sophomores, won the final tournament game May 19 against Black Forest Academy 2-0. Hollis scored both goals.

Hollis was named to the first all-tournament team for playing striker, though her favorite position is midfield. She said she began playing

soccer when she was 13 after her younger sister began playing.

"After two years of watching her play and talking mess about how I could do things better than she did, the next year my mom signed me up," Hollis said.

She said that she also plays for the Olympic Development Program and a German team in Mantel, as well as playing basketball and golf for Vilseck High School.

Coleman, who also plays midfield and striker and was named to the second all-tournament team, got her start playing soccer through Youth Services in eighth grade.

"I have fun playing any sport as long as I'm out doing something," Coleman said.

She also plays basketball and runs cross country for the high school.

Hollis and Coleman were two of the self-described "high-spirited, I-think-we-can-do-it," sophomores that brought energy and motivation to the team.



Hollis



Coleman



DelaRosa

Local German baseball team welcomes American players, experience

by **JIM KORP**
Special to the Bavarian News

If you ask people in and around Bamberg where baseball is played in Germany, only few will know an answer.

This is surprising, as the Memmelsdorf Barons play baseball for 15 years less than two miles away from the Warner Barracks in Bamberg.

When founded in 1991, the club had the assistance of some Americans who taught the basics of baseball to a curious bunch of German players.

After five successful years with championships and trophies, the club struggled in 1997 when some U.S. players left the team, heading back to the States.

But the seed was planted and when the first youth generation was old enough to take over responsibility, the team went up again several leagues.

Today, there are four teams in the club, two senior baseball teams, a youth team, and a fast pitch softball team for women.

The first senior team plays in the "Regionalliga," the third highest league in Germany, which is comparable to College-Level.

Coach Mark Payne, who has played professional baseball in the United States and who was part of the German National Baseball Team, wants to bring the team back up to the second Bundesliga where they were in 1996.

"We are trying to create a baseball center for Bamberg and the whole Franconian region for all ages and both genders," he said.

This is not easy, as there are almost no sponsors and German kids rather start playing basketball with the success of the Brose Baskets, the professional basketball team in Bamberg.

"We are missing some organizational staff," manager Jim Korp knows.

"There are still not enough Germans that do umpiring or scoring. If we can bring together American baseball-knowledge with German talents, we can achieve great things in Memmelsdorf."

But the Barons are on the right track. The new women softball team started this season and has already won against more experienced teams.

"They are learning quickly, but they need leadership players that guide the team to success," says softball coach Michael Brown.

Therefore, the Barons are always looking for Americans that can fill up the teams.

"If we had a good American closer on the first team, nobody in the league could beat us," Payne says.

Next home game of the Barons is on Aug. 18, a double header with the first game starting at 1 p.m. against the league leader Baldham Boars, which

is near Munich.

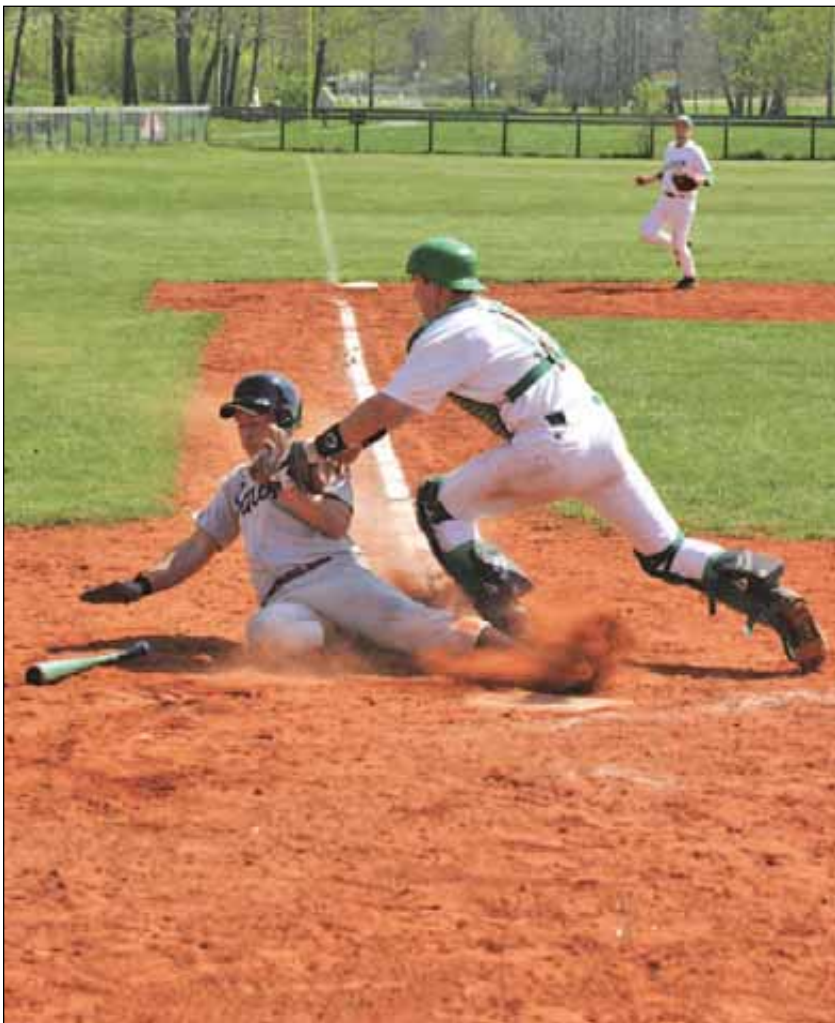
The Barons are currently in second place, one game behind Baldham.

For more information on the Memmelsdorf Barons, check out their Web site at <http://www.svmbarons.de>, their videos on <http://www.youtube.com/svmbarons> or contact Jim Korp CIV 0170-2107046 or e-mail jiim@baronsbaseball.de.

If you would like to join practice, just show up. Men practice Tuesday and Thursday at 6 p.m., women Tuesday at 6 p.m., and children on Wednesday and Friday at 4 p.m.



The Memmelsdorf Barons baseball club offers positions for all ages. Founded with the assistance of Americans, the club welcomes anyone who would like to play.





Bamberg Whispering Pines club members pose with the 2007 Ryder Cup before starting the longest drive, chipping, and putting contests.

Bamberg retains Ryder Cup title

Story and photos by AMY BUGALA
Bavarian News

U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg Whispering Pines Golf Club defeated the German Hauptsmoorwald e.V. Golf Club, retaining the Bamberg Ryder Cup title during the fourth annual tournament July 14 at Warner Barracks, Bamberg.

Even though tournament day temperatures were predicted to be in the 90's, 35 golfers from both clubs braved the heat and took to the greens to compete in the German-American 18-hole tournament.

Golf Course manager Danny Brown predicted the Americans would win.

"We've got a lot of young players with talent out there today, we're keeping that cup," he said.

Nine members from the German club competed against 26 members of the Bamberg club on the fairways of the nine-hole course.

The American team had the advantage with a greater number of competitors and scores to pool from. In the end, the nine lowest American scores were combined to match against the German scores handing the title once again to the American team by a fair number of strokes.

While cooling off in the shade, German club member Harald Raedlein said, "The heat is the best excuse I can use right now," regarding the status of his game at hole No. 14.

"It's not the heat," countered teammate

Gerhard Stapf as he prepared to tee-up, "These guys are young and want to win."

American stand out and overall tournament champion was Donny Knollenberg who finished 5-over par at 77, just one under the German club competitor Guenther Gumbert.

"I got lucky" said Knollenberg a dental hygienist at the Bamberg Dental Clinic. "It helped that I shot par (36) on the front nine, and for me it all came down to good putting," he continued. "The heat didn't really get to me until the end." Knollenberg explained. "I was one over par going into the last four holes."

Placing second was German club member Günther Gumbert finishing 6-over par at 78 strokes for the day. A retiree, Gumbert has been playing golf for 13 years and a member of the Hauptsmoorwald e.V. club since it was founded in 1994.

Grabbing the third place seat was American team member Bryan Kenney, contributing 81 strokes to the total team score. Kenney stayed consistent throughout checking in at 6-over par after the front nine.

"I plan on staying right where I am for the rest of the round," he said. He did just that, adding only three strokes to his scorecard after the back nine.

The top nine players contributing to the American victory included efforts from Michael Calvanico, Michael Dobler, Michael Garcia, Luke Hartmetz, Oscar Hernandez, Everest

Hutchinson, Brian Kenney, Donny Knollenberg, and JC Perez.

Whispering Pines will host a variety of weekend tournaments through Oct. 26. To download a tournament schedule click MWR at www.bamberg.army.mil or call the Golf Pro Shop at CIV 0951-300-8953.



Donny Knollenberg displays the putting skills that helped seal his victory over local German club competitor Guenther Gumbert. Knollenberg putts one in and closed the day just 5-over, contributing to the overall win for the Americans.



Germans nearly sweep horseshoe competition

Story and photo by SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

Close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades— luckily, this was horseshoes.

Germans and Americans gathered June 30 for a full day of horseshoe pitching at Schweinfurt's seventh annual International Horseshoe Tournament on Conn Barracks.

"[The Germans] are fanatics over here [about horseshoeing]. They even order their horseshoes from the States," said Hank Bielski, who started playing with the Germans in 1989.

Bielski won the trophy for the men's American discipline in the competition with a score of 78 out of 108 points. He was the only American to win a discipline.

The Germans took the titles for the men's German discipline, both of the women's disciplines, as well as the team trophy.

The morning began with German-style horseshoe pitching from a distance of about nine meters. Teams of three participated with each person throwing 36 horseshoes, aiming for a ringer at best for three points, a leaner for two, or landing within one horseshoe away from the

Alex Dove throws a horseshoe in the German-style horseshoe pitching competition on Conn Barracks June 30.

stake for one point.

German horseshoe clubs continued arriving at the competition throughout the morning from all over Germany. In the afternoon, the American-style pitching contest began with one-on-one competition.

"I didn't realize how popular it was with the Germans. It was a lot more fun than I expected," said Allyson Valadez, Family member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

Nearly 600 Germans are active in horseshoe pitching clubs within the country and travel around to compete for trophies and titles.

The game seemed to have been a favorite among soldiers in many American-fought wars starting with the Civil War.

Returning home, these soldiers interested their hometown folk in the game, and horseshoe pitching courts were laid out in hundreds of cities, villages, and farming communities. The first horseshoe pitching tournament, open to the world, took place in Kansas in 1910.

"[This competition] is a traditional friendship event. It's to bring people together to show a little bit of American culture," said David Luellwitz, MWR Chief of Business and Recreation, who coordinated the event.

Live music began in the later afternoon played by Texas Rooster, and kids rode a mechanical bull set up for the event.

Sports Briefs

Sign up for men's, women's softball

Community level softball league, going on now through August in Grafenwoehr. For more information, contact Mike Bradfish in Graf at DSN 475-9024/9007, Carl Boothe in Vilseck at DSN 476-2214/2998, or Tony Lee in Graf at DSN 475-7576.

Find golf courses in Europe through ODR

Outdoor Recreation knows the great places to golf this summer. Call to find out what course offer military discounts. There are courses for everyone—beginners to experts. Call ODR at DSN 475-7402.

Join the Bamberg Aqua Barons swim team

Do you like to swim? The Bamberg Aqua Barons, member of the European Forces Swim League, is looking for youth swimmers and coaches.

Get in shape, stay in shape and travel with the team to swim meets in Germany, Italy, Spain, Belgium and England. Earn great rewards like trophies, medals, ribbons, and even an athletic letter. Contact Melissa Plamann at CIV 0951-297-3817 or e-mail bamberg_aquabarons@yahoo.com for information.

Weekly Golf Scramble slated every Thursday

Join the weekly Thursday Night Scramble Golf Tournament at 5 p.m. at Bamberg's Whispering Pines Golf Course.

Entry fee is only \$5 per person. Please register by 4:30 p.m.

Tournament starts at 5 p.m. Call DSN 469-8953 for more information.

CYS needs coaches for fall sports and fitness

If you are interested in helping area youth this fall, there is a great need for volunteer coaches for tackle football, soccer, and cheerleading. No experience is necessary. CYS will provide all the necessary training. Call CYS Central Registration at Graf, DSN 475-6656 or Vilseck, DSN 476-2760.

Youth football officials training held in Ansbach

On Aug. 4, 5, and 11, there will be a Youth Sports tackle football official clinic in Ansbach. These will be full days, teaching rules, etiquette and mechanics. Only officials who attend this clinic will be offered a contract to officiate for the fall youth football season. Point of contact is Dan Fraizer at DSN 476-4037.

Registration now open for CYS fall sports

Registration is currently being accepted for soccer, tackle football and cheerleading. New registrations will be accepted for soccer and tackle football through Tuesday and for cheerleading through Aug. 15. Contact CYS Central Registration at Graf, DSN 475-6656 or Vilseck, DSN 476-2760.

Bowling centers offer specials, tournaments

Call Graf, DSN 475-6177 or Vilseck, DSN 476-2576 to find out about tournament schedules and leagues.

PBA Experience League bowl at Vilseck Bowling Center at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays. PBA lane conditions will challenge bowlers of all levels. Included are video tips from pros on how to play under various conditions.

The Vilseck Bowling Center will be hosting a Bowling Mini-Camp July 28-29. Call DSN 476-2576 for more information.

Want to promote your sport? Contact us today

Just call DSN 475-7113 or e-mail adriane.foss@us.army.mil for coverage.

Army to launch traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder program

by JOHN J. KRUZEL
American Forces Press Service

Within 90 days, all Soldiers will receive information to help them identify symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and mild traumatic brain injury, and they will be urged to seek treatment if necessary, Army officials told reporters at the Pentagon July 17.

Mental health care professionals briefed Army Secretary Pete Geren on the new program at the Pentagon July 18. And by Oct. 18, the same educational supplement will have been presented to platoon-sized groups of active-duty, reserve and National Guard Soldiers throughout the force.

“The mild traumatic brain injury and the post-traumatic stress disorders — they’re real,” said Army Lt. Gen. James Campbell, director of the Army staff. “They impact soldiers and impact those Soldiers’ Families. And as a result of that, that impacts the readiness of our great Army.”

During his 37-year career, Campbell said he recalls only two other instances when the Army mandated such extensive “chain training” programs.

We don’t want another Vietnam. We don’t want people with chronic symptoms who first present (them) 15, 20, 25 years later when it’s really hard to get rid of the symptoms.

Army Dr. (Col.) Elspeth Cameron Ritchie
director of Army’s Proponency Office for Behavioral Health

According to subject matter experts, mild traumatic brain injury is an affliction that’s become a signature injury of the war on terror, often resulting from Soldiers’ proximity to roadside bombs, mortars and other explosions. Symptoms are similar to those resulting from a concussion, from slower reaction times to emotional and cognitive problems.

PTSD often occurs from a feeling of helplessness at the time of a severely traumatic event. It manifests itself in three clusters of symptoms: intrusive re-experiencing of the event, numbness or disassociation, and hypervigilance, or the feeling that one is constantly “on edge.”

Traumatic brain injury, which ranges from mild to moderate and severe cases, requires an

“injury event,” while PTSD can occur from cumulative effects of combat or extended deployments.

During two 30-minute multimedia presentations that make up the program, Soldiers will learn to identify basic symptoms in themselves and other soldiers. Afterwards, health professionals will answer troops’ questions. The Army also has produced a video to make Soldiers’ Family members more sensitive to possible warning signs and treatment options.

Campbell said the program’s main objective is to reverse the tendency in military culture to attach a stigma to mental health care.

“I’m not naive. There is a huge culture issue here, and it is this: that those leaders or Soldiers who seek help could be perceived ... as being

weak,” he said. “The whole thrust behind this program is that if you are, in fact, someone who needs help, that desire to get that help is not perceived as a weakness but rather as a strength, as a personal courage to do it.”

Anticipating greater demand on its medical system, the Army is actively recruiting health care practitioners, hoping to gain 270 professionals. Currently, some soldiers wait up to one month before receiving treatment; the Army is seeking to reduce that amount of time.

“The sooner the intervention is made, the easier it is to treat,” said Army Dr. (Col.) Elspeth Cameron Ritchie, director of Army’s Proponency Office for Behavioral Health. “We don’t want another Vietnam. We don’t want people with chronic symptoms who first present (them) 15, 20, 25 years later when it’s really hard to get rid of the symptoms.”

“We want to take care of them and help the person right away,” she added.

Soldiers and their Families will be able to learn more about the program at www.army.mil. Also, the Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline can be reached at 1-800-984-8523, or via e-mail at wsfsupport@conus.army.mil.

New prosthesis could help keep troops in the fight

Story and photo by FRED W. BAKER III
American Forces Press Service

A new prosthesis under development will give service member amputees more flexibility and help them better perform their military jobs if they choose to stay on active duty.

A preview of the new technology July 17 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center drew key staff and several servicemember amputees. The open forum allowed users to see improvements in prototype form and ask developers questions or offer suggestions.

In 2006, Otto Bock HealthCare, a global provider of prosthetic components that started out providing devices for German World War I veterans in 1919, began developing a prosthetic knee system that is an upgrade to its already popular C-Leg. It was awarded a three-year \$1 million contract to develop a leg that will allow more servicemembers to stay on active duty if they choose to.

The prosthesis is for above-the-knee amputees and uses a microprocessor to control the knee’s hydraulic functions and anticipate the wearer’s actions and make changes in real time.

This will give servicemembers greater flexibility to change speeds or directions without sacrificing stability.

The project began in 2006, and developers are through the prototype development. Barring any technical problems, the new prosthesis should be available to servicemembers in 2009.

Mobility will be improved, allowing more

movement without the user having to concentrate on the knee, said Hans-Willem van Vliet, the program manager.

The new system will have more sensors, a faster hard drive, more memory, and will provide smooth transitions between movements such as level-ground walking, climbing stairs, and running.

It also will allow service members the ability to turn around while walking and walk backward in one fluid movement, something that is not possible with the current C-Leg. It will adapt automatically between walking speeds and gaits, Vliet said.

He emphasized that engineers have not simply improved the C-Leg, but have completely rebuilt the technology on the inside.

Engineers also are working to stretch battery life to 50 hours on one charge. This will give servicemembers on long road marches the duration they need to reach a power supply for recharging.

Requirements also call for making the system salt-water resistant, a difficulty with the onboard computer systems. They also are planning a remote control, about the size of a car-lock remote, that will allow the user to switch among as many as 10 modes with the click of a button.

The current C-Leg allows servicemembers two operating modes: one for walking and one for bicycling or another activity. To switch between modes, the wearer has to swing the leg forward in a jerky fashion. In some instances the user may not be able to switch modes



Sven Zarling, from Otto Bock International, demonstrates the running capabilities of a prosthesis in development that is designed to give above-the-knee amputee service members mobility they need to remain on active duty if they choose.

because of limited movement. Reprogramming a mode requires a visit to a technician.

Air Force Lt. Col. Andrew Lourake, a pilot at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., is the first above-the-knee amputee to return to active duty as a pilot. He was fitted with a C-Leg five years ago.

Lourake said he could not do his job without the C-Leg because it allows him to switch between walking and flying modes. Still, he said, he is impressed with the new design and plans to be one of the first to own one, even if he has

to pay for it out of his own pocket. The current C-Leg costs about \$30,000. The new system is expected to cost about the same.

“I’m excited. It has a lot of the stuff that I asked for a couple of years ago. It’s huge in functionality and active living,” Lourake said.

Right now, he has to reprogram his second mode from flying mode to bicycling or running. With the new leg, he won’t have to make as many visits to his prosthetic technician.

“I’ll have everything right in the leg, and I’ll never have to touch the computer again,” he said.

National Intelligence Estimate released July 17 foresees continued homeland terrorist threat from Mid-East groups

by DONNA MILES
American Forces Press Service

Islamic terrorist groups, particularly al Qaeda, are likely to remain a persistent threat to the U.S. homeland over the next three years, according to unclassified parts of a new National Intelligence Estimate released July 17.

The report, which includes input from 16 intelligence organizations, eight within the Defense Department, paints a picture of terrorists’ “undiminished intent to attack the homeland.” It notes that these groups continue to adapt and improve their capabilities, with al Qaeda promoting cooperation among them.

“Al Qaeda is and will remain the most serious terrorist threat to the homeland, as its central

leadership continues to plan high-impact plots,” the report says. It also cites al Qaeda’s influence in “pushing others in extremist Sunni communities to mimic its efforts and supplement its capabilities.”

The report notes that few people with ties to al Qaeda’s senior leadership have been discovered in the United States since 9/11. However, it predicts that al Qaeda “will intensify its efforts to put operatives here” to coordinate or carry out attacks.

“We assess that al Qaeda’s homeland plotting is likely to continue to focus on prominent political, economic and infrastructure targets with the goal of producing mass casualties, visually dramatic destruction, significant economic aftershocks and/or fear

among the U.S. population,” the report states.

It notes that the network is “innovative in creating new capabilities and overcoming security obstacles.”

Increased worldwide counterterrorism efforts over the past five years have hampered al Qaeda’s ability to attack the United States again, leading it and other terrorist groups to perceive the U.S. homeland as “a harder target to strike since 9/11,” the report acknowledges.

It points out that these measures have helped disrupt known plots against the United States since Sept. 11.

But despite these successes, the report expresses concern that “this level of international cooperation may wane as 9/11 becomes a more distant memory and perceptions of the threat diverge.”

This is particularly troubling, the report notes, in light of the fact that al Qaeda is likely to leverage the contacts and capabilities of its most visible and capable affiliate, al Qaeda in Iraq.

That organization, the report notes, has expressed a desire to attack the United States.

By associating with al Qaeda in Iraq, the

larger al Qaeda network is able “to energize the broader Sunni extremist community, raise resources and recruit and indoctrinate operatives,” the report said.

While citing al Qaeda as the major concern, the report also points to other radical groups, including Lebanese Hezbollah and other non-Muslim extremists, as threats.

In light of their violent histories, an attack from these groups over the next three years is likely, it predicts.

Globalization and technological advances are making it easier for even small groups of alienated people find and connect with each other, it notes. In doing so, they are able to “justify and intensify their anger and mobilize their resources to attack - all without requiring a centralized terrorist organization, training camp or leader.”

Eight intelligence organizations within the Defense Department contributed to the report: the Defense Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, National Reconnaissance Office and Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps Intelligence.

“ **Al Qaeda is and will remain the most serious terrorist threat to the homeland, as its central leadership continues to plan high-impact plots.** ”

National Intelligence Estimate
released July 17

Bedwetting, sleeplessness signs of child pre-deployment stress

Continued From Page 1

“Use every opportunity to prepare each child according to his or her age and their level of understanding,” she said.

Kelley said it is also important for the Soldier parent to spend time individually with each child prior to deployment because “it is about respecting your child as an individual. He or she deserves your undivided attention.”

Reinforcing the individual time with each child, Brown said, “spending time individually is very important because it establishes connections.”

She said children often experience the same emotions as their parents prior and during deployments, but “they just show it in different ways, often through behavior.”

Pre-school children, for example, may exhibit regressive behavior, such as bedwetting and a desire to sleep in the same bed with their parents, said Kelley.

She explained that children in this age group do not have a total concept of time and they simply “do not understand what it means that daddy is going for a long time.”

Another common deployment characteristic for pre-school children is egocentrism.

“Kids are very egocentric,” said Brown, explain that they often think that if a parent is leaving, they have probably done something wrong.

Pre-school kids experience what Kelley called non-reality “magical thinking,” believing that if he or she wishes or prays for something to happen, it will come to pass.

Another common pre-deployment reaction of the pre-school age group are feelings of rejection by the deploying parent. Kelley “I don’t love you” can be heard often, said Kelley.

“This is where the parent should react with ‘I know that you are angry but it is okay, I still love you,’ she said.

Common pre-deployment behavior for **school age children** includes difficulty concentrating, difficulty sleeping, anxiety, resentfulness, and denial, according to Grafenwoehr Middle School Adolescent Substance Abuse Counselor Elizabeth Hill.

“Anger is also a primary reaction that consists of fear and hurt,” said Hill.

Children may become irritable, or withdraw from their parents and friends, said Brown.

“Some children develop physical problems such as stomach pains and headaches and others cling to the parents more closely,” she said.

Brown also explained that it is not uncommon for school age children to exhibit regressive behavior, including bedwetting and “become more clingy or whiny.”

While **teenagers** are more mature than their pre-school and middle school counterparts, they are just as likely to exhibit pre-deployment stress.

Common behaviors for teenagers include depression, problems sleeping, missing curfew, and using foul language.

“It is like they are thinking if I am bad my dad cannot go,” said Kelley.

“Sometimes teenagers have difficulty saying to their parent that they are scared for them getting deployed,” she said, noting that this is one reason teenagers suddenly begin avoiding the deploying parent.

Regardless of the different age groups and behaviors, military child experts agree on one thing—the diverse behavior of children of deploying parents is normal.

“Whenever there is a noticeable change in a child’s behavior that appears to be more negative or immature,

one should consider the possibility that the child is struggling or suffering because of the upcoming deployment,” said Brown.

When parents identify this struggle, Hill suggests they listen to the child, keep an open mind, and keep lines of communication open.

Communication helps children deal with the changes and restore predictability.

“Children need a great deal of routine and predictability,” said Brown. “Certainly a parent leaving the household disturbs both of those factors. Behavioral problems are far more likely to resolve if children do not have the extra anxiety of wondering what is going to happen next in their world.”

Another key to helping children cope with deployments is reassuring them of your love, said Brown.

She said kids age 8 to 10 are very egocentric. “By that, I mean that they see many events in their world as occurring because of their actions. Reassuring a child that he or she is loved can help to eliminate the misperception that the parent left because they were bad, are unlovable, or somehow did something wrong,” said Brown.

But, said Kelley, “reassuring the kids that they are loved and reassuring them that you are

coming back are two very different things. Never make a false promise to a child.”

“You should be honest with the child that there is risk – but at a level that the child can understand,” Brown agreed.

She clarified that while a teenager can comprehend that the deploying parent may face dangers, younger children cannot process that information as well.

Kelley said parents should explain this in an age-appropriate manner.

“If the kid is 6 years old, you do not give them statistics,” she said.

The best way to phrase it, experts agree, without making a false promise to the child is to reassure them that the parent is well-prepared for his job, that all Soldiers work together as a team to keep each other safe, and that the parent will do everything that he or she can to come home safely.

“One should definitely be honest while focusing on the positive perspectives that can provide reassurance,” said Brown.

David Ferrer death under investigation

Continued From Page 1

3:17-36) by Shawn Burke and a recording of the popular Boys II Men song “It’s So Hard to Say Goodbye.”

An emotional reading of Romans 5:5-11 was conducted by David’s sister, Jakki.

Uhde followed with a reading of John 14:1-6 and the homily.

“The David that you loved, never let that David die in your heart,” Uhde told the congregation. “Hold tight to the David that you knew, that lives in your heart and soul.”

After music, prayers, and communion, a photo and music presentation compiled by Jakki showed snapshots of David’s life from infancy through young adulthood.

During the presentation, a song that David recorded on his computer was played, followed by a memorial tribute by Vilseck High School teacher Greg Mako.

“Anger is also a primary reaction that consists of fear and hurt.”

Elizabeth Hill
Adolescent Substance Abuse Counselor



Photo by Kat Watson

What a catch

Sabine Rahn (center front) received the women’s first place honors during the Grafenwoehr Fischer Fest at the city’s Stadtweiher June 24. U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Commander Col. Brian Bolye and the Grafenwoehr Fischereiverein president Herbert Benkhardt presented the awards at the event, which has been held annually since 1960. The event was also attended by Grafenwoehr Mayor Helmuth Waechter (left) and the Fischereiverein vice president Josef Biersack (right). U.S. and German fans gather every year to enjoy the competition, live music, grilled salmon and trout, and drinks. Rainer Rahn (not pictured) took first place in the all around team.

2SCR vehicles en route to Iraq

Continued From Page 1

generators and office equipment.

“We are loading everything that we can take to the theater,” said Pendell.

Despite the relative calm as the unit uploaded its vehicles and equipment, he explained that coordination for such a massive move is extensive.

“It takes a lot of coordination within the regiment, with the garrison, and with the local rail, so all the trains will be on time,” he explained.

“It takes a lot of back planning because the process of loading the vehicles is very dangerous,” said Sgt. First Class Tonio Childress.

He explained that risk-reducing measurements are in place to make sure all the equipment is tied down, everybody has his own specific job that he is prepared for, and last but not least, the Soldiers must maintain three points of contact at all times as they climb on the vehicles.

Pendell said it took several weeks for the unit to pack its equipment in preparation for the day’s move.

The unit loaded its Strykers and equipment July 6-12, after which the loads were transported to Northern Europe, then to Kuwait, said Pendell.

“We have a few Soldiers going with the equipment,” said Pendell, “and we have a couple that will meet the equipment there.”

The remaining 3,900 2SCR Soldiers “will follow in the coming weeks,” said Pendell. The Soldiers are divided into groups to determine their exact deployment dates and are expected to depart soon after they return from block leave.

Pendell said 2SCR will leave a company-sized rear detachment at Vilseck.

He said most of the deploying troops are tying up loose ends and enjoying Family time before they deploy.

“But in the next few months,” said Pendell, “all of the equipment and Soldiers will be in Iraq.”

Members of the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment load their vehicles at their U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr railhead July 11 in preparation for their upcoming deployment. About 300 Strykers are expected to be shipped.

Photo by Bilyana Atova



German Bundeswehr and U.S. Soldiers mingle during the bi-annual Soldier’s Reception July 20 at the Grafenwoehr Physical Fitness Center.

Photo by Adriane Foss

Stoiber hosts Soldier Reception at Graf

Continued From Page 1

Today, we still consider the presence of the U.S. Armed Forces in Europe, Germany, and Bavaria to be indispensable as an anchor for security and stability in Europe... Europe needs America and America needs Europe,” he said, “and this extends far beyond the exclusively military realm.

Stoiber, who hosts the reception every two years, was accompanied by the Bavarian State Minister Eberhard Sinner and Germany’s Deputy Secretary of Defense Christian Schmidt.

U.S. Army Europe Commander Gen. David McKiernan was also in attendance and addressed the crowd of more than 1,000 uniformed and civilian attendees.

To Schmidt, McKiernan said, “we are keeping a majority of our Soldiers in Bavaria, and we appreciate your support at the state and federal level. We also appreciate your assistance when we have to ask you for additional training and flight hours when preparing our Soldiers to go in harm’s way, and when they are deploying and re-deploying.” McKiernan thanked the state and federal government representatives present for

making Soldiers’ Families feel at home in Bavaria. “For everyone here today, you may have heard that over the next few years the U.S. will continue sending some of its forces back to America,” said McKiernan. “This is a true statement.

“It’s all a part of our transformation process,” he explained. “ But while our military numbers will decrease a little more, our commitment to Germany, and our other NATO Allies, friends, and partners across Europe and Eurasia will remain strong, robust, and purposeful. The forces remaining in places like right here in Grafenwoehr, at Vilseck and Hohenfels, Ansbach, Katterbach, Illesheim, and Gamisch, and possibly a few other locations in Bavaria, are part of our more agile stance with the right capabilities available to the U.S. and her allies to assist in assuring regional and global security.

“We, the U.S. Armed Forces, recognized the fact that we can only be successful through our close cooperation of our allies, and occasions such as today’s reception serve as a reminder to us all how important our relationship has been, and will continue to be in the years to come,” said McKiernan.